

A graphic novel by
ARNOLD ARRE

THE MYTHOLOGY CLASS



Where Philippine
Legends Become Reality



TUTTLE

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THE (MYTHOLOGY) CLASS



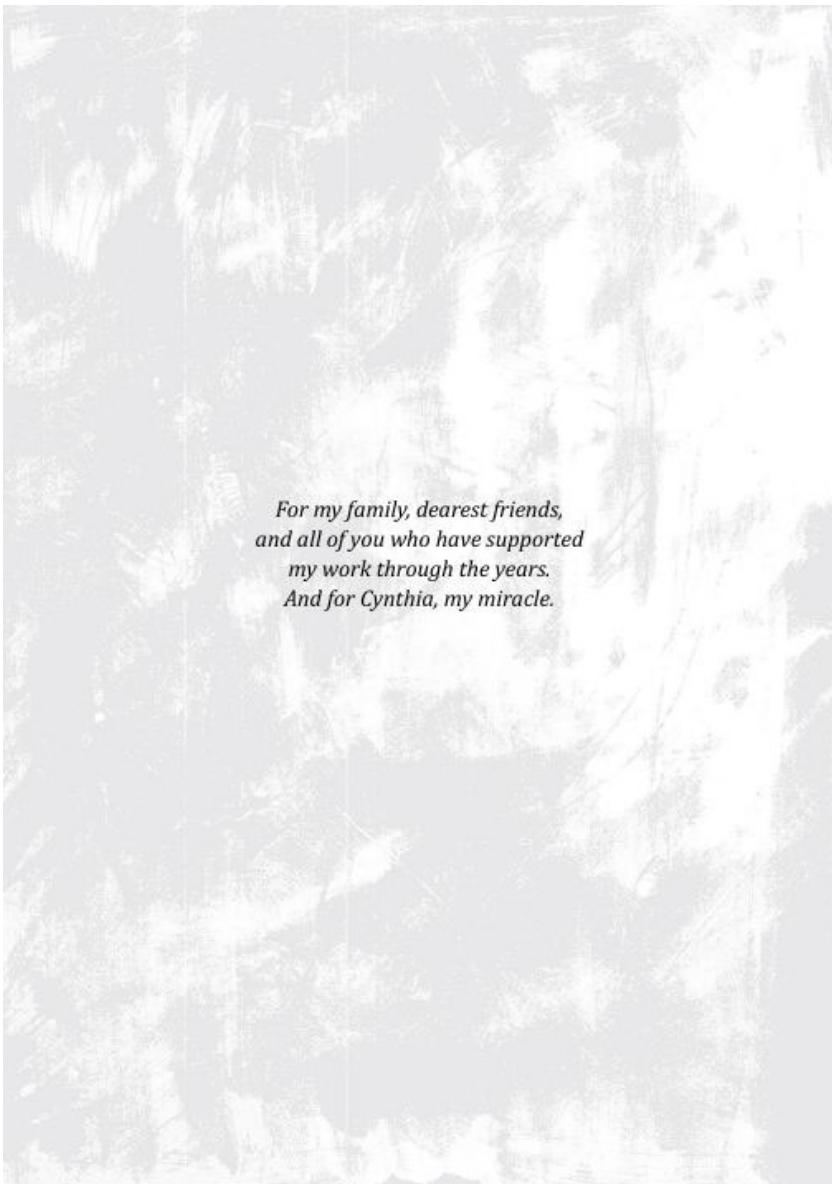
Where Philippine
Legends Become Reality

A graphic novel by
ARNOLD ARRE



TUTTLE Publishing

Tokyo | Rutland, Vermont | Singapore



*For my family, dearest friends,
and all of you who have supported
my work through the years.
And for Cynthia, my miracle.*

“This is a book of wonder. Arnold Arre conjures up the kind of spell that needs nothing but the alchemy of words and images to create a story for an entire world to fit in. A classic that can be read and reread with growing delight.”

— **ERWIN ROMULO**,
Esquire Philippines Editor-in-Chief

“A modern Filipino literary classic. Arnold is a true inspiration to his fellow comic creators and fans.”

— **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**,
Marvel Comics Artist of “Avengers”
and “Secret Invasion”

“It’s been almost a decade since I last read ‘The Mythology Class,’ and upon rereading it I found myself once again laughing at Bob and Gio’s antics, getting crushes on Lisa and Lane, feeling sorry for Gina, being kilig about Kubin and Nicole, and yes, even learning to love Misha and Rey. I always knew Arnold was amazing at crafting an epic tale that deserves its place among our legends, but I’d forgotten just how great he was at making characters you feel for, love, and actually miss.

I think it’s high time for a sequel, Mr. Arre.”

— **QUARK HENARES**, Director of “Rakanrol” and “Keka”

“I could not put down this book the first time I read it. Even though it was gift given me, it felt like a surprise, a real find. My very own treasure!

You have to read ‘The Mythology Class’ and discover that the supernatural stories which you heard as a kid and dreamt and wondered about are alive and kicking butt in Arnold Arre’s storytelling.”

— **BUDDY ZABALA**,
Bassist of The Dawn and Eraserheads

“It’s startling to realize how fully-formed a cartoonist Arnold Arre already was when he was doing ‘The Mythology Class’. Though he has continued to refine his technique and storytelling skills since, the hallmarks of his work are already present: the ambitious scope, the humor and warmth of the characters, and the sheer imagination on display with his expressive line art. An inspiring work, filled to overflowing with ideas.”

— Writer/Editor **RAMON DE VEYRA**
("Ang Nawawala")

“Arre’s imagination and creativity soar to dizzying heights. More than a decade since its first publication, ‘The Mythology Class’ remains potent and exhilarating. Beyond the narrative, it is a valiant attempt to reconnect the modern Filipino with his or her ancient roots. These are our heroes and myths raging against the dying of the light—and, boy, what a battle to behold.”

— **JERROLD TAROG**, Director of “Sana Dati” and “Senior Year”

"Noong nabasa ko ang 'The Mythology Class' ni Arnold Arre, nakita ko talaga ang kapangyarihan ng komiks, at ang kapangyarihan ng napakagandang kwento na naikwento sa napakagandang paraan.

Isa ito sa mga librong pinakamamahal ko, nakapagbigay inspirasyon; isang libro na maiisip mong napakaswerte mo at nabasa mo ito.

Hindi lang siya kasi kwentong pagkatapos mo mabasa, okay ka na; ito yung tipong mapapaisip ka, na ang sarap maging Pilipino, ang sarap maging tao, ang sarap makadama, ang sarap malaman na marami pa tayong makakalap at maipamamahagi sa sangkalawakan."

- MANIX ABRERA,

Creator of "Kikomachine Komix," and "12" & "14" silent comics

"'The Mythology Class' is better than any textbook I read in school about myths and demons. It's like a college-level 'Monster Squad.' The fact that Arre can enlighten and entertain while both deconstructing and reinventing these fables is a magical talent. I need to see this series as a bunch of movies, STAT."

- MARIE JAMORA,
Director of "Ang Nawawala"

"The tragedy of the Philippines is that more money is invested in politics than literature. Arnold Arre's 'The Mythology Class' can and will shape a future generation more than any city ordinance can—if only more will encounter this book. What a stroke of luck! You have in your hands a re-print. Buy ten more and give it to random kids you see. Make this your mission and chalk it under 'nation building.'

- GANG BADOY,
Founder of Rock Lid Philippines

"Arnold Arre is one of the most imaginative storytellers today. You get a sense of his vast creativity in 'The Mythology Class,' his first graphic novel, one that captures the Filipino fascination of friends discovering the spirit world together that still rings true today. Arnold went on to write more graphic novels, make animated films (and win awards for both), and inspire people.

What makes his work so compelling is his knack for laying out the little dramas of real life amidst the most fantastic of settings. His work reminds us to be kind, to love and fight for what you hold dear, to forgive yourself and others, because we're all human.

The reason 'The Mythology Class' still resonates today is because we all have friends, and no matter how old we are, we are still discovering that the world is a beautiful and mysterious place, and more than enkantos and tikbalangs and what-have-yous, it's the time we spend with our barkada that makes life exciting."

- YVETTE TAN, Author of "Waking the Dead" and "Kaba"

WHAT IS THE MYTHOLOGY CLASS?



It's not just a thoroughly enchanting, uniquely Filipino graphic novel. This is what happens when an artist says, "To heck with what everyone says about what should or shouldn't be done, or how big or how small one can dream... I am doing my thing, my way." And well, somehow, he did it.

"The Mythology Class" was a work plainly done with no compromises, no limits and no details spared. Arnold is a storyteller who never dreams small. He dreams worlds first, then focuses inward to find the stories mingling in the crowds. That's how epic yet how personal this book is.

And this is a work that impresses from every angle. From the meticulous panels of hand-drawn art and hand-lettered dialogue, to pages crammed with detail, emotion and movement to full-page visions of whimsical fantasy, you can feel the creator's exuberance and energy as he tells his tale. A tale told so earnestly, so vividly and purely, I could practically feel the night wind in my face as we chased a fantastic beast of legend down a highway, or smell the stench of demon breath as beings of primal darkness reveled under a murky, rain-drenched sky.

In this book is a Manila fused with Old Magic, with as much wonder and discovery as there is danger and daring-do. So grab on tight and get ready for a ride.

So many years after it was first cast, the magic is still there and just as strong as ever.

MARCO DIMAANO
Quezon City, October 24, 2014



INTRODUCTION

I met Arnold Arre almost twenty years ago. He was either drawing or playing games of "what if"—coming up with scenarios in his head of different worlds, parallel universes, regular folks like you and me suddenly finding themselves on unusual paths.

I distinctly remember one night along J. Nakpil Street in Malate, Arnold was drawing caricatures for some cause or event—I forgot. What I did remember was that it cost P50.00 for one and my dearest friend Tricia told me, "I'm holding on to mine. This is going to be worth something in the future." (Or something like that.) I remembered that because she was so certain Arnold would just continue to amaze and fly with his craft.

A few years later, in 1999, Arnold came out with the first issue of "The Mythology Class." In 2005, he released the collected edition of all four issues. Arnold has done other comic book / graphic novel titles, animated shorts and album covers. A ton of which have won awards.

I am only too happy to be writing the introduction to the 2014 re-release of the "The Mythology Class" omnibus. "The Mythology Class" is a book that celebrates youth, friendship, Philippine myths, legends and folklore, magic, imagination and dreaming.

It has a few hints in it of "Alice in Wonderland," "The Phantom Tollbooth" and "The Lord of the Rings." A bunch of college students are thrown into a fantastic quest and they're just not the same again after they return to the "real world."

However, there is always a little magic to be found in the "real world"—in certain people we meet, in nooks and crannies hidden beneath the noise, traffic and "technological advancement" of the world we live in.

Arnold Arre seems to think so.

KAREN KUNAWICZ

Manila, October 21, 2014



FOREWORD

It was 15 years ago when I first held a copy of "The Mythology Class." Back then it came out as four oversized volumes. It was quite unlike anything local komiks creators were coming out with at the time. In 1999, the new Pinoy comics industry of self-publishers was just 5 years old. All of us creators were still honing our skills, learning the craft, coming out with comic books that we thought were good. Then Arnold Arre released "The Mythology Class" and it was like a gigantic leap forward, and showed us all the true meaning of "good".

I knew Arnold was a talented dude when I first met him. He wasn't detail-obsessed like me and other artists. Detail, of course, was what we excelled in because it was a crutch. We tried to hide our errors of drawing in a mass of cross-hatching hoping nobody would notice. But even back then Arnold concentrated on drawing things right with just the right amount of detail. That spoke of an artistic maturity that many of us were yet to achieve.

Now in 2014 comes a brand new collected edition of "The Mythology Class." And it comes at a perfect time. It's time to show a new generation of comic book creators what a good comic book is. Look at the art. Read the story. Look at how Arnold manipulates both words and pictures, how he bends and twists and breaks apart every element to create a unique reading experience.

"The Mythology Class" demonstrates that Arnold is more than just a talented artist—he is also an excellent and intelligent writer who knows fully well how to coalesce his ideas into one complete graphic novel.

With this book, Arnold proves himself as a true major comics creator. It has everything there is for a good comics story. One, it must be something you just can't put down. I read the four individual volumes again over the last day and it completely engrossed me from beginning to end, furiously turning the pages wanting to know what happens next. Two,



it must have characters that come alive with their own unique voices. During the time I was reading it, Tala, Nicole, Rey, Misha, Kubic, Gina and the rest of the gang became living beings in my mind. I felt convinced that somewhere, somehow, these characters were real, living and breathing. When the book ended, I felt utterly sad that I won't ever see these characters again.

Arnold also knows how to visually present a story in a compelling and exciting way. There's a chase scene here which is probably the best chase scene ever in the history of Pinoy komiks. There are pages in this book that build up to splash pages that simply takes your breath away. There are euphoric moments, moments of visual triumph that seem much larger than the printed page. I won't be specific, but there is a scene that happens after this little bit with a helicopter which demonstrates such a moment. As I read it, I felt my heart soar and I felt little tears forming around my eyes. It's an intense and beautiful scene. In my mind I was throwing curse words at Arnold for making me feel this way like no local comics creator ever had.

You have no idea how lucky you are, if you are reading this book for the first time. You are in for a reading experience quite unlike you've ever had before. Even though this is a fifteen year old story, it still remains as fresh and as exciting as it did in 1999.

I'm very excited to see "The Mythology Class" back in circulation after having been out of print for so many years. Many Filipino comics readers today may no longer be familiar with it, completely unaware of how good it is, and how much of a juggernaut Arnold is as a comics creator. It's time to show that Arnold stands among the very best this country has to offer.

I hope this book stays in print this time!

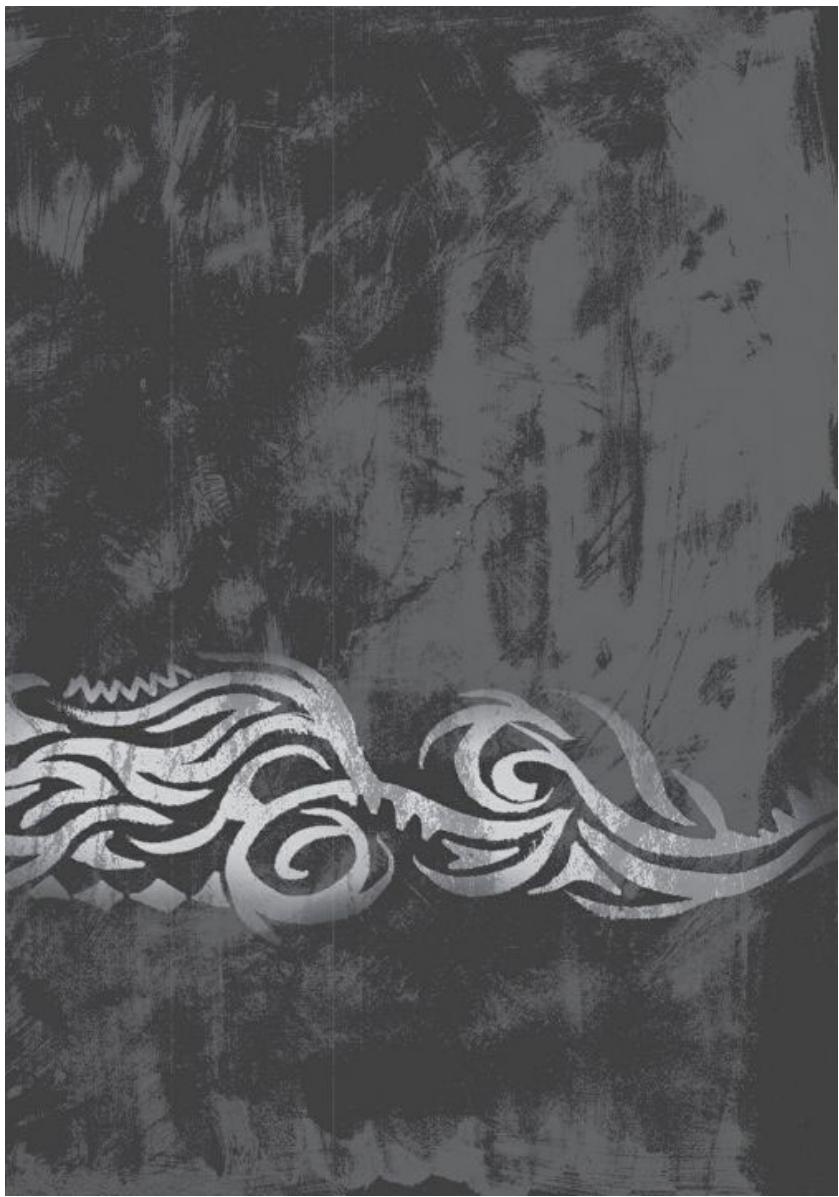
GERRY ALANGUILAN

San Pablo City, October 26, 2014











MANILA
2:00 AM

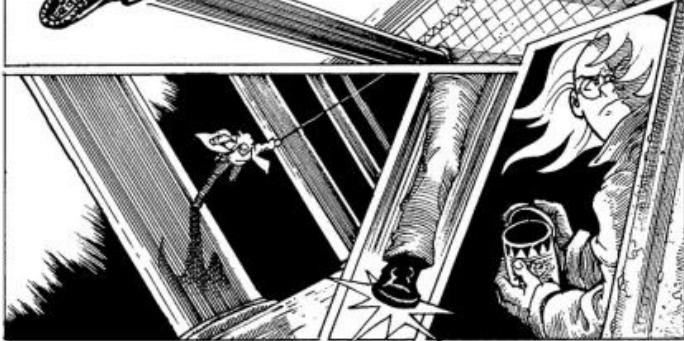
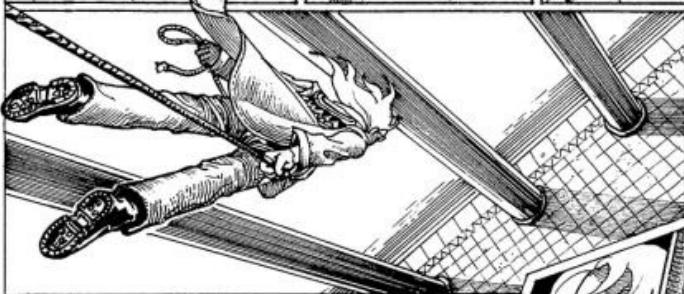


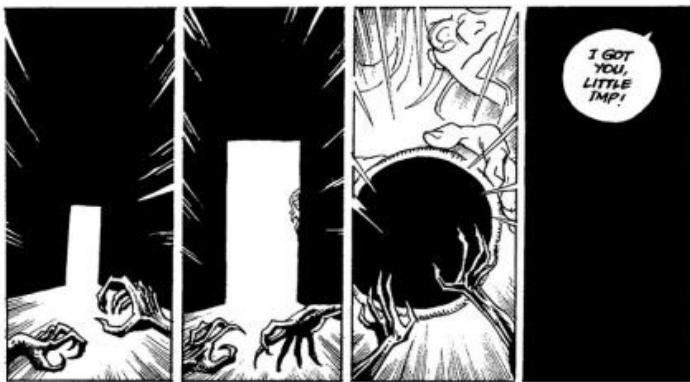






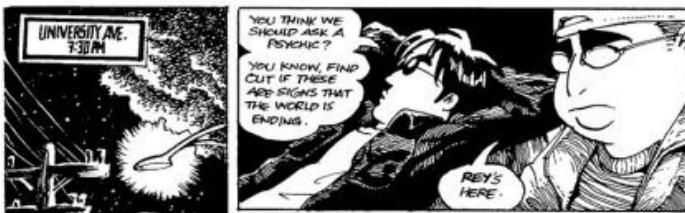
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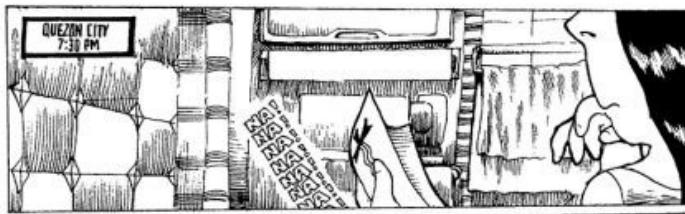












...STRANGER THINGS
HAVE BEEN KNOWN
TO HAPPEN.



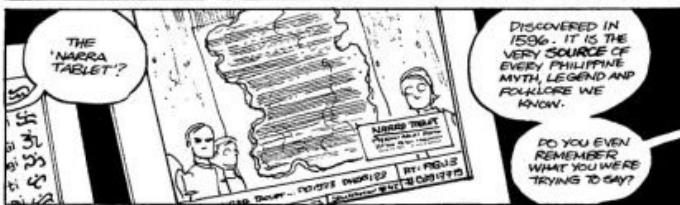
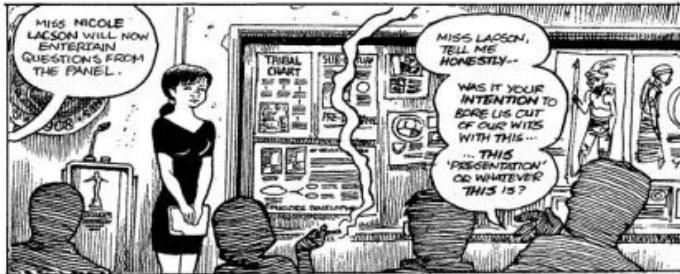




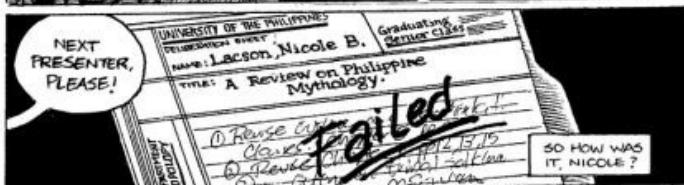


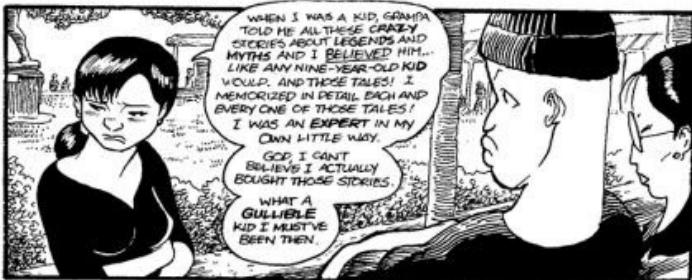












BUT THOSE STORIES REALLY MEANT A LOT TO ME. I GUESS THAT'S THE REASON I'M DEDICATING THIS WORK IN MEMORY OF MY GRAMPA. I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT THAT IT WOULD EXPLODE RIGHT IN MY FACE.

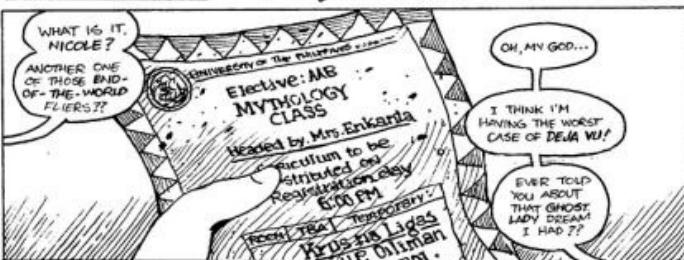
SOME DEREGATION THIS TURNED OUT TO BE. HUA?



SCRAP IT, GIRL. I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

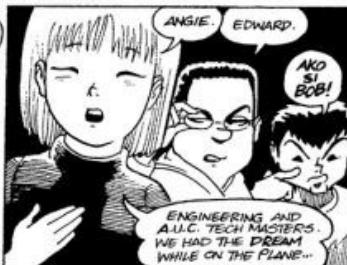
Oreo Blizzard!

THAT SHOULD RAISE YOUR SUGAR LEVELS UP!









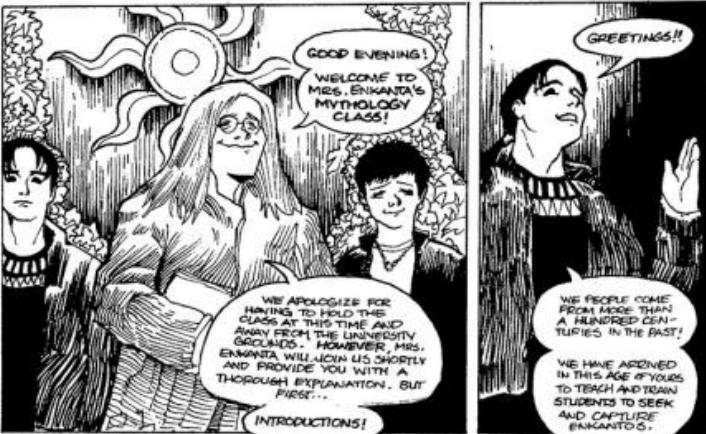




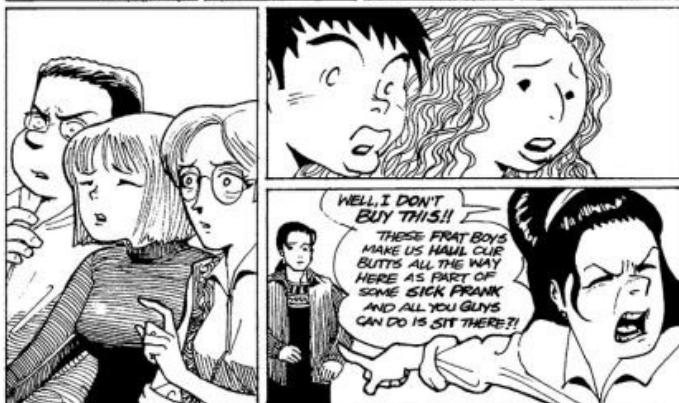


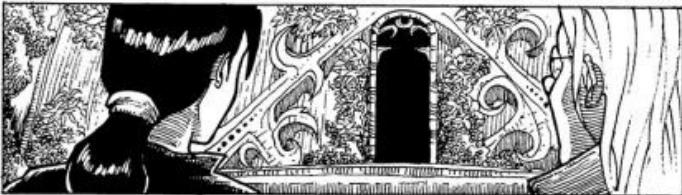










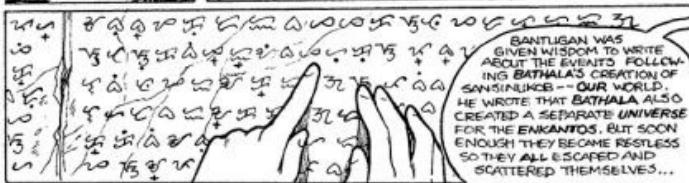
















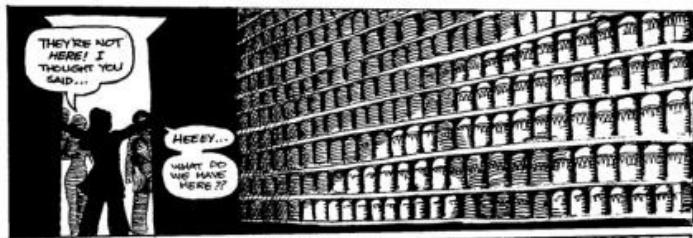




















"I'LL DO MY BEST."

TIME TRAVELLERS

WARRIORS OF U.P.
AHO?

THESE ARE REPRESENTATIONS OF ALL THE STUDENTS WE HAVE TRAINED FROM LONG LONG AGO. AND, LIKE YOU, THEY ALSO HAD THE SKILLS AND WISDOM TO BE BANTUGAN'S ALLIES.

AS LONG AS TIME DOES NOT RUN OUT OF SUCH PEOPLE FOR US TO TRAIN AND TEACH, WE CAN SEND ALL OF THE ENKANTOS THAT HAVE INFESTED EVERY TIME AND AGE BACK TO THEIR OWN WORLD.

AND YOU, BEING LIKE THE ONES BEFORE -THOUGH LIVING IN A CENTURY STRANGER THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE EVER BEEN IN, HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING CHOSEN BY THE GODS.

WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU ARE ALL HERE.

THE ENKANTOS DO NOT BELONG HERE IN YOUR TIME, NOR IN ANY OTHER TIME. IT CREATES FRICTION BETWEEN WORLDS. ONE REALITY CANNOT OCCUPY THE OTHER. THAT IS WHY WE NEED TO BRING THEM BACK TO THE PLACE OF THEIR ORIGIN.

THAT IS WHY WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP.

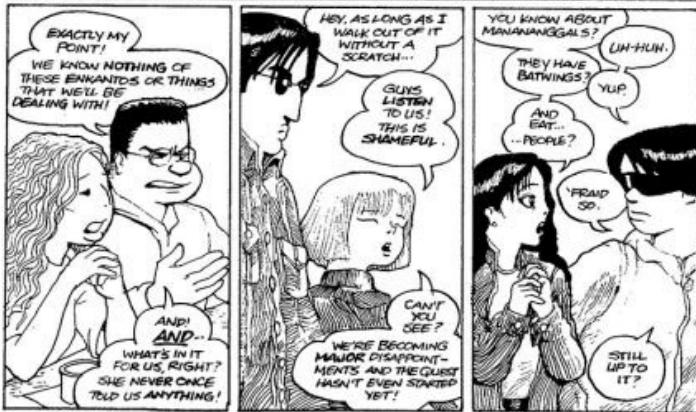
BUT THE DREAM, MRS. ENIKANTA...?

IT WAS JUST A SCHEME, WASN'T IT?

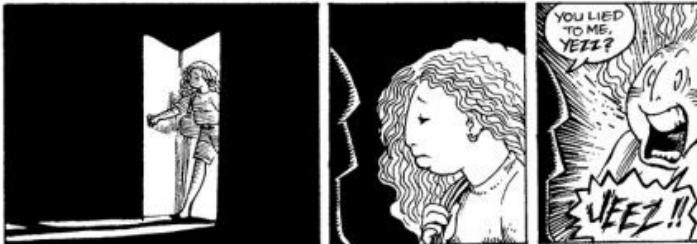
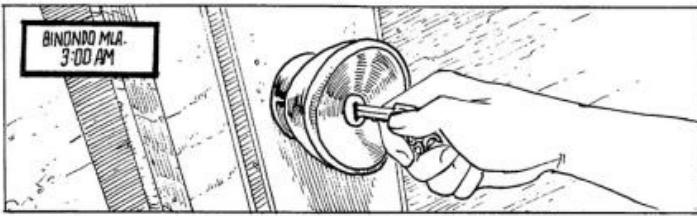
...TO GET US ALL TOGETHER!





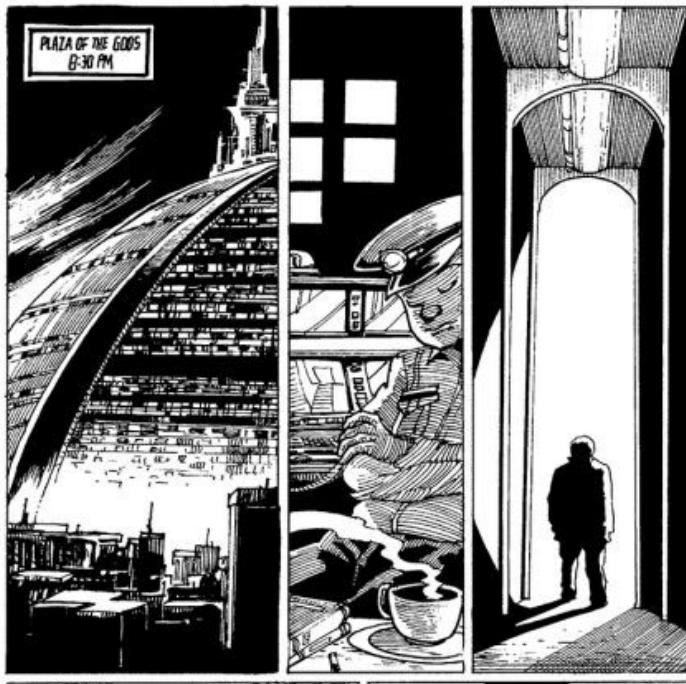


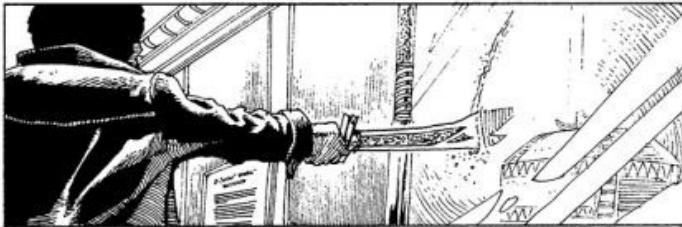




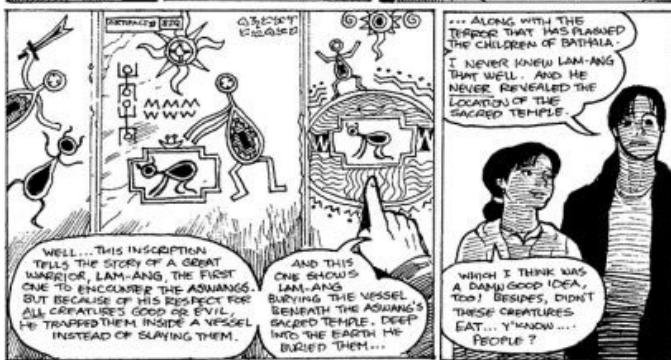




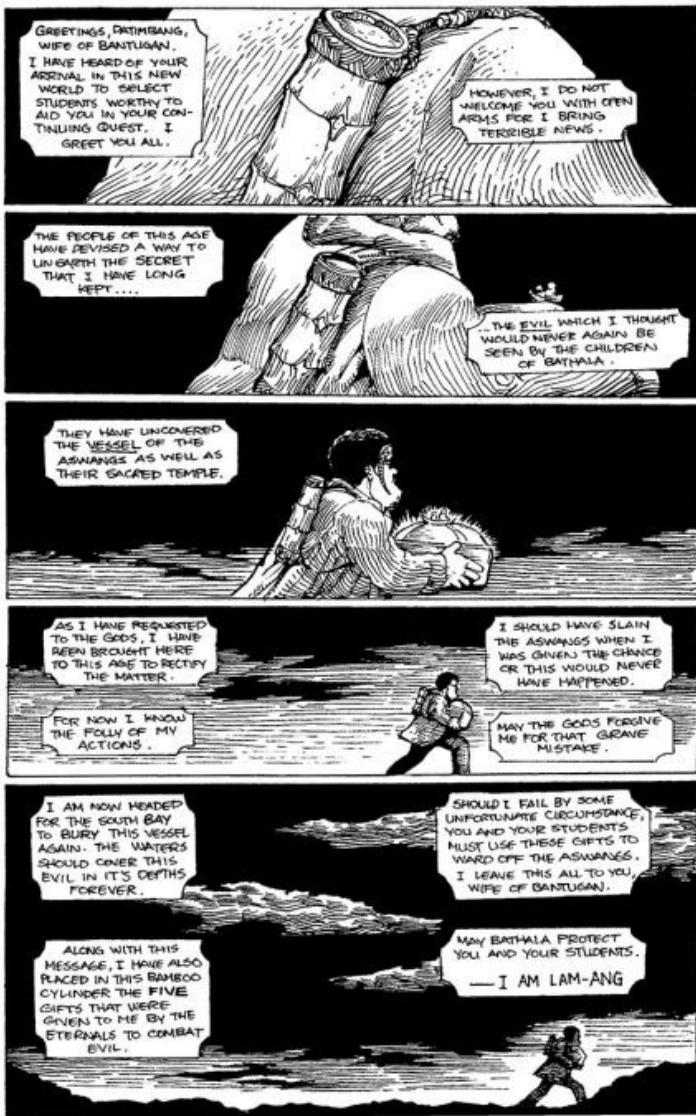








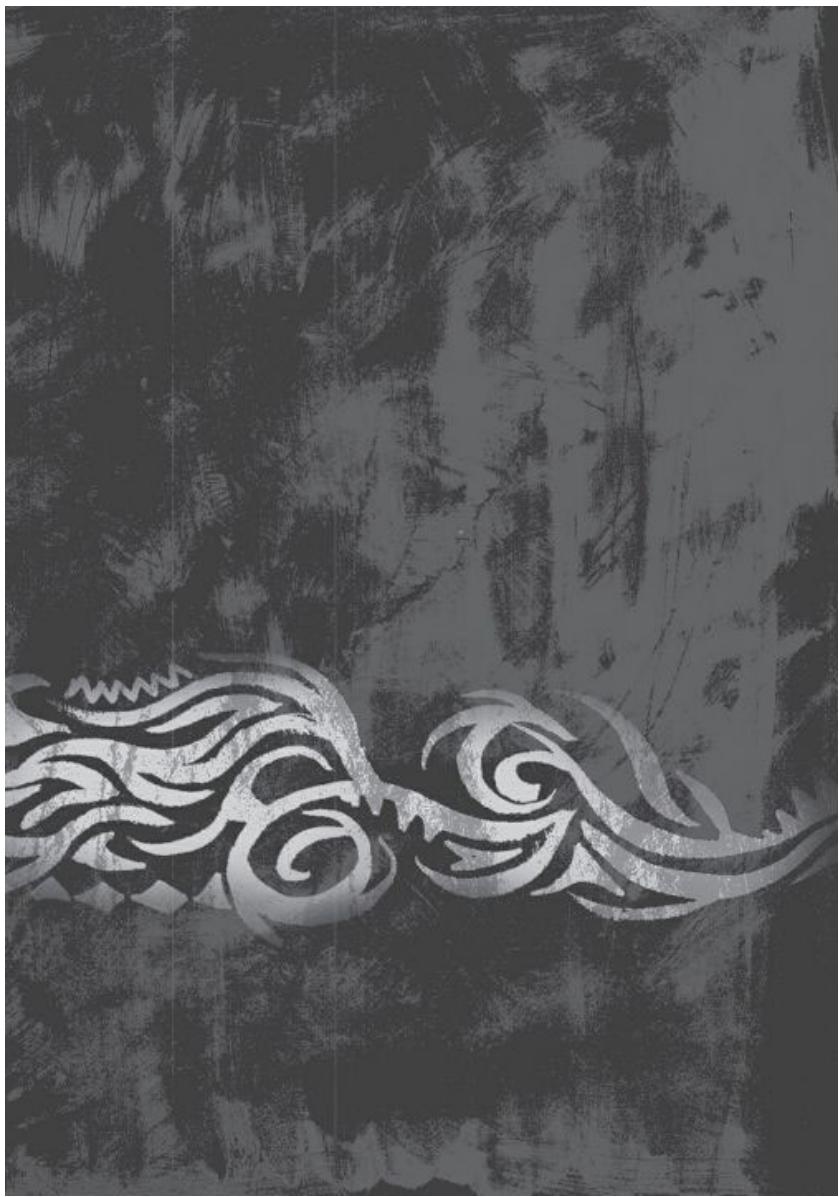




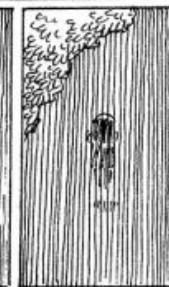
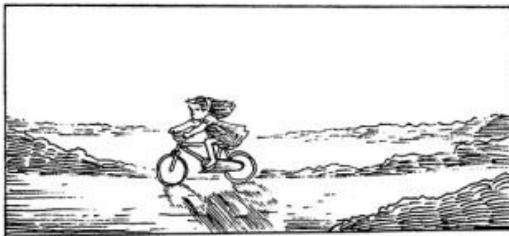


22











Nicole's Logbook:

SUBJECT: First Assignment.

After a three-hour drive we arrived at Bulacan's biggest forest area with all the equipment we needed, thanks to Angie's Music-Mobile Van. As for the exact location, leave it to Talas' keen sense on the whereabouts of the enkantos...



For the dancers, Lane and Misha decided to volunteer. For the class' sake we all prayed that Misha made-up for all her tardiness during dance practice.

EASY JOB, I SAID... BUT ADOOOOO... I JUST HAD TO VOLUNTEER AS A DORKY D'MATA DANCER!!

THERE, ALL DONE!

NO KAPRE CAN RESIST YOU NOW.

COULDN'T HELP SAYING THAT, COULD YOU?

And for the non-telepaths... good old fashioned communicators, thanks again to Angie's disco mobile.

TESTING... ONE... TWO... YOU READ ME? TEAMS ONE... TWO, THREE... FOUR?

PUNEDENG-PUNEDENG KA NANG MAG-DEEWAY, NICOLE!

Meanwhile, Sulayman and the guys made sure that the hi-fi speakers were stable and in good condition.

WE BETTER HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN OR THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY!

Everything was all set and our teams were ready--

--and excited.

Like kids preparing to see an eclipse for the very first time.

Then came the long wait. Hours passed (was it three? I think... four hours). It felt like forever just sitting there... and waiting.

Waiting.

The whole class seemed to have lost the enthusiasm they felt.

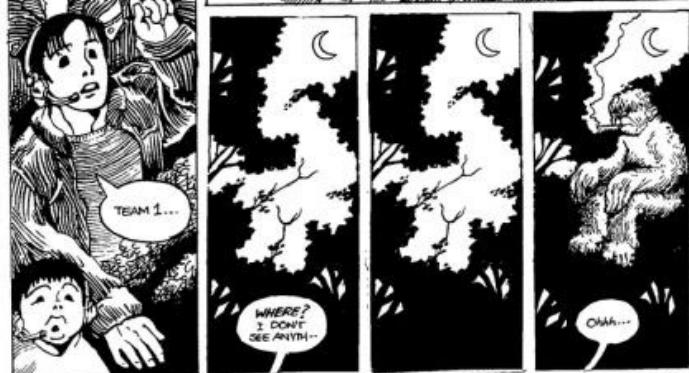
But like grampa told me a long time ago... --just when you least expect it.....

...ENKANTOS always have a way of surprising you.

HOLY...

LOOK AT THAT....

I'LL BE DAMNED.
YEAH! I SEE IT!





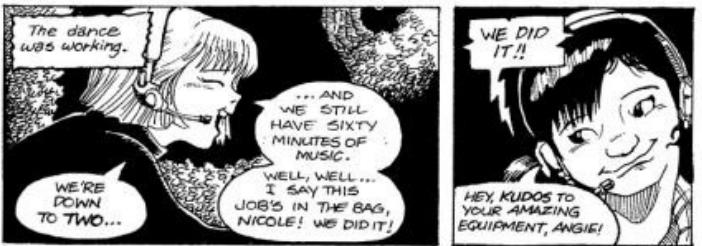






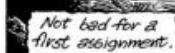




















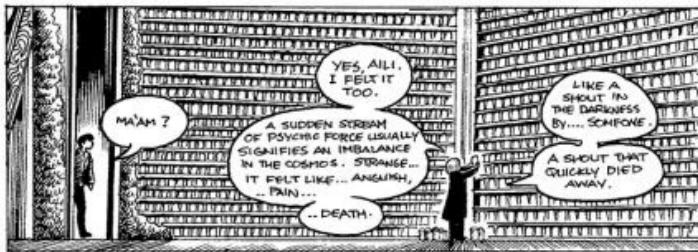


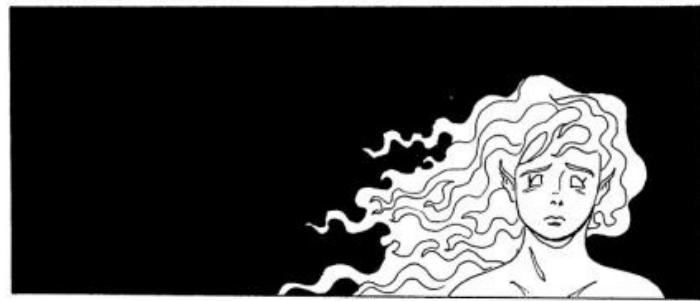






















I WAS SPOTTED. THE LEADER HELD A GUN AT ME -- POINT BLANK.

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW I SNATCHED THE GUN. I JUST DID, AND I WAS SOON FIGHTING LIKE MAD.



ROY WAS BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF ONE. HE RESCUED MISHA THAT DAY.

AND GIO WAS SWINGING AWAY WITH A 5-FOOT T-SQUARE. EL DIABLO GUY WISHED HE WAS NEVER BORN.



AND SO, THE THREE GUYS SAVED THE SCHOOL THAT DAY AND BECAME HEROES.

WELL, FOR FIVE HOURS AT LEAST.









Nicole's Logbook

SUBJECT: Separate assignments
According to our resident Anito, several enkantos would be popping up in different parts of the city that night.

So Mrs. Enkanta decided to divide the class into four teams:

Lisa, Aili, and Edward checked out this place where the legendary Adarria bird had rendered a young child comatose.

Renting a small ferry boat, Gina, Angeli, and Gio, along with Enkanta, surveyed the polluted waters of Pasig River searching for stinky Mermen called "Shokoyas"...

...leaving the rest of us with the job of capping a couple of Monnanggals in Tondo

(Though I can still give you a dozen other reasons why I'm scared of that place).

And finally, because of their blatant lateness, the class decided that Reg and Misha should take the Tryanak assignment at a nearby hospital in Manila.... an assignment no one else wanted!

Up to now I still wonder if placing the two of them together as a team was such a good idea....

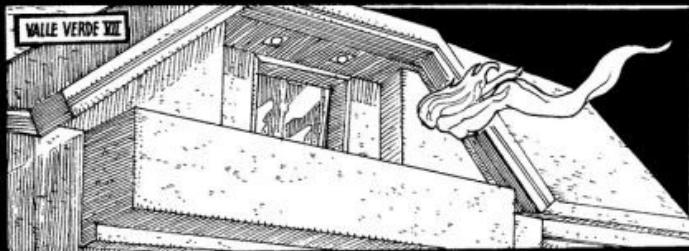
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT --
YOU WANT US TO PLAY REPOSTERS WRITING A FLYER ABOUT THE WEIRD THINGS GOING ON IN THE HOSPITAL THAT'S KEEPING THE MATERNITY WARD ALL FREAKED OUT ???

YOU ACTUALLY THINK THEY'RE GONNA FALL FOR THAT ??

I MEAN LOOK AT US WE LOOK MORE LIKE A COUPLE WITH A BAD CASE OF CONSTIPATION !

OH YEAH ??

WELL I DON'T SEE YOU DISHIN' OUT ANY ERIGHT IDEAS GENIUS!



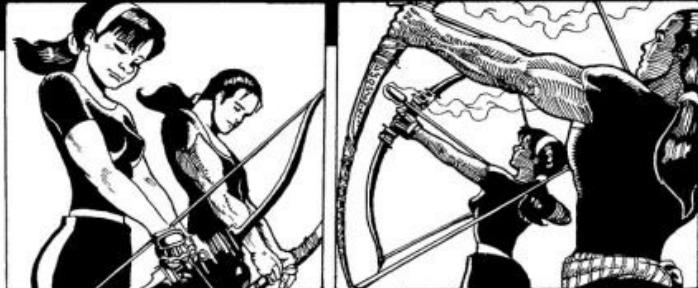






IT'S ALRIGHT.
WE ARE HERE TO
TAKE YOU BACK.





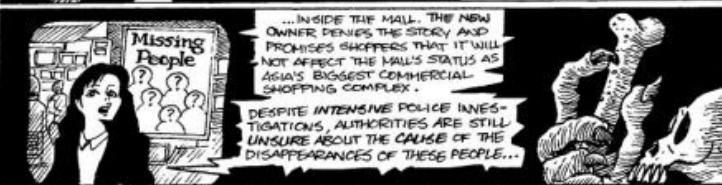


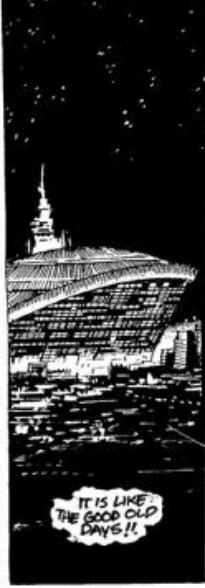






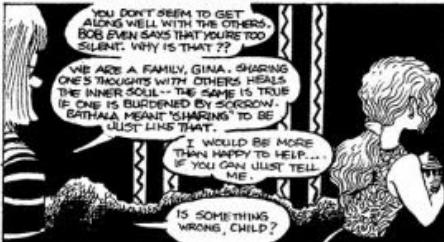
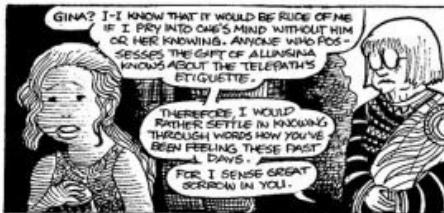






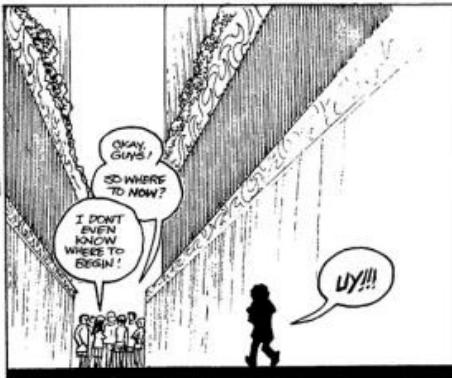






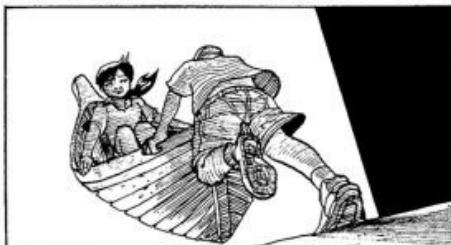




















THERE WERE INSCRIPTIONS ... OR BETTER YET... INSTRUCTIONS WRITTEN IN EVERY INFINITESTRING STRAND THAT MAKE UP THE NET? WE SIMPLY FOLLOWED WHAT IT SAID ALL THE WAY UP, WITH A FEW EAGLE AND A COUPLE OF FINGER CLOPS TO COMPLETE THIS ALL NEW, ALL IMPROVED TUMAANG'S NET!

HYBRID MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU GUYS??

WELL, HERE IT IS!
DON'T ASK US
HOW WE DID IT,
BUT HERE
IT IS.

TIME FOR
A TEST RUN!

GLEN, DI BA?!

Modern methods for an age old quest. It was obvious what our 'gpe' was contributing to it...

The efficiency of modern equipment replacing ancient tools? No, I wouldn't say that...

Because we all know for a fact that, in the end...

...the result is what counts the most.

Gina had always been the secret type - ever since the beginning. But whatever she lacks in socializing she more than makes up for in helpfulness and dependability.

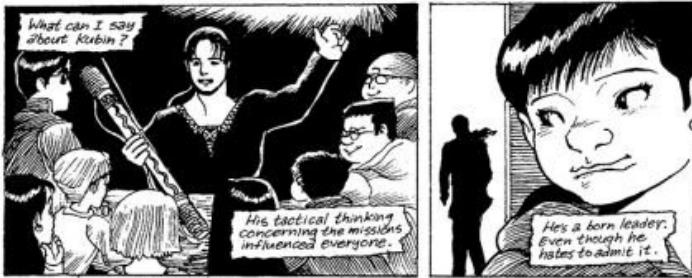
As for Micha...she is the reason Einkantos have been showing up. Aside from that....

...well, let's just say that she tries very hard.

Really really hard.

THOUGHT YOU HAD ME, EH?! WELL START ROTTING YOUR SORRY BUTTS IN THOSE JARS, LIGLIES!! WHO'S SCARY NOW, MUH? WHO'S FRIGGIN' SCARY NOW?!!

SHE DID HELP IN BRINGING THE EQUIPMENT





The quest was almost over, except for one last thing. I guess the gods must've saved the best (or the worst?) for last.

And what could that one last thing be? You guessed it—

Tame the Tikkalang!

BUT... THERE'S A CONCERT THERE TONIGHT!!

WE KNOW... LEAVE IT TO THE CONCERT PEOPLE TO PULL STUFF LIKE THIS. WE'RE GOING TO DISTURB ITS WATERING HOLE.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING IT THE HARD WAY! --

WE'LL BE USING THIS. PASS IT AROUND.

SINCE TIMBALANGS AND KAPRES HAVE BEEN INTRUDERS FOR SO LONG, WE'VE FITTED THE STAFF WITH THE SAME TYPE OF HERB. THE KAPRES SMOKED.



WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THERE ARE NO PEOPLE AROUND. TIMBALANGS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR HOSTILE NATURE.

BUT WITH THE RACKET THAT CONCERT'S GONNA BRING --- GOSH, ALL THOSE PEOPLE! --

IS THERE A WAY WE CAN LURE IT AWAY FROM THE CROWD?

EXITS ARE GONNA BE CLOSED FOR PARKING, AND ALL THE MAIN ROADS COMING FROM ABAING ARE GONNA BE CAM PACKED WITH CARS. THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS A NARROW DIRT ROAD THAT LEADS TO THE HIGHWAY.

THEN WE'LL TRAP 'EM THERE. I JUST HOPE IT DOESN'T TURN INTO A BRAWL BEFORE YOU GUYS START BLOWIN' THOSE HORNS.

WELL, WE GOT THESE BABIES HERE, AND CONCERT NOISE IS NO PROBLEM--

RIGHT, ANGIE?

THE RECEIVERS WE PLACED INSIDE THE ANARAW HORNS WILL MAKE THE CALLING SOUND DETECTABLE ONLY TO IT'S EARS.

REMEMBER TO BLOW LIGHTLY! THOSE SIZZERS COST US A BUS LOAD OF CDS!!

JUST PLUG THE AMP SOMEWHERE AND YOU'LL BE READY TO PARTY.

ETO ANG TANONG... SINDI ANG MANG- NGANGABAYO??

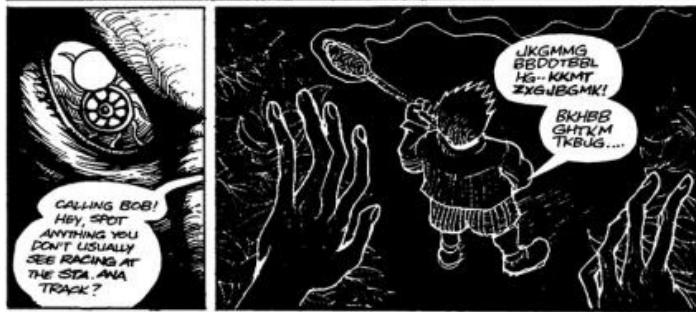
ME! ME! I'LL DO IT!! LIL' OL' FEARLESS ME, REMEMBER ??





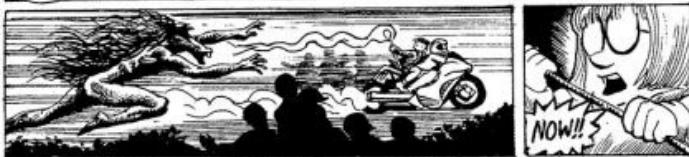
















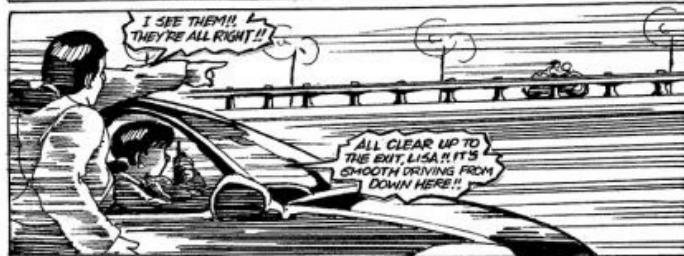
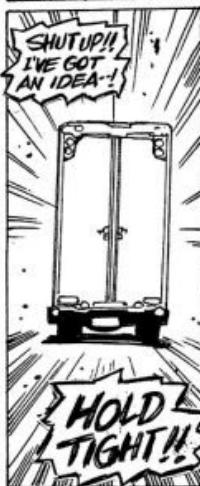






















WE CAME HERE TO TAKE YOU BACK
BACK TO THE PLACE OF YOUR BIRTH. WE CAME HERE IN PEACE.

YOU HAVE REACTED VIOLENTLY
TO OUR PRESENCE. YOUR CAUSE FOR ALARM IS WELL UNDERSTOOD...

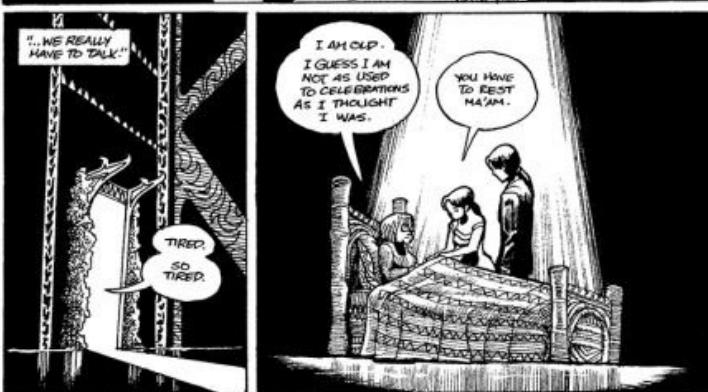


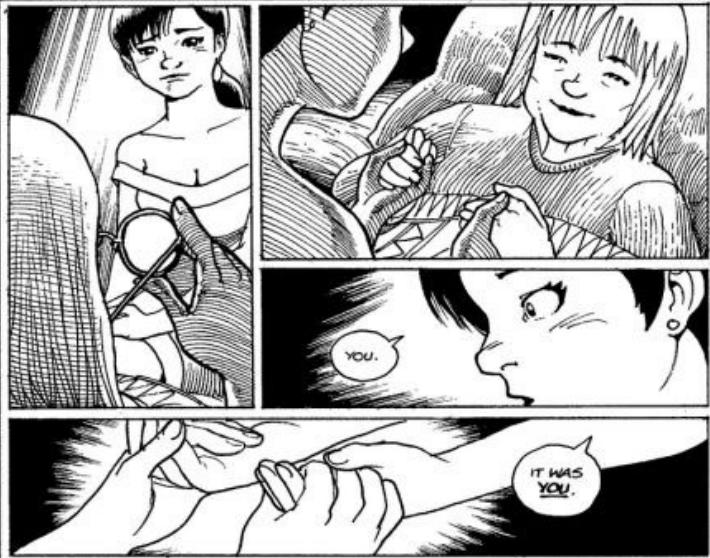
















SOUTH SUPER-HIGHWAY

YOU BET YOUR LIFE
YOU'RE STILL IN THE
LANCE SHOW!!

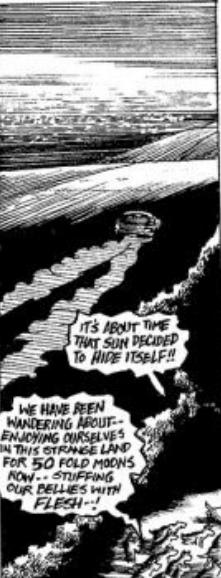
TWELVE NUMBSKULL
GALERT! HOW 'BOUT
THAT? ALL I TALK
ABOUT THE SAME OLD
THING! I MEAN, HEY...

...WHY WORRY ABOUT GHOULS WHEN YOU
CAN EATIN' ALL THE REIN CELLS YOU WANT
WORRYING ABOUT WHAT THE NEXT DAY -
CHECKS GONNA ARRIVE? HELLOOO
ACCOUNTING PEOPLE!!

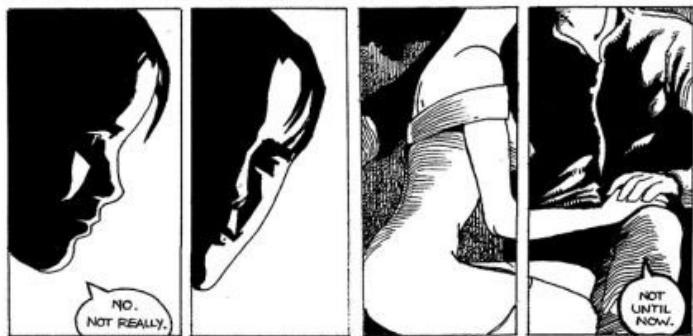
I'M TELLIN' YOU, THE
ONLY TIME I EVER SEE
ME IS DROWNED IN ALL THIS
PARANORMAL SHIT
WOULD BE WHEN DOGS
START CROSSIN' THE
HIGHWAY!!

DOGS CROSSING ON
A HIGHWAY. WHAT'S
WRONG WITH THIS
PICTURE???

THEM NOT BEING
CHICKENS OR THE
LACK OF A "DOGS
CROSSING" SIGN IS,
OBVIOUSLY, NOT IT.

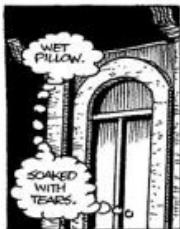














SO...IS THIS PART
OF YOUR GRAND PLAN?
WHAT ARMY SHOULD WE
USE NOW??

GOATS?

MASTER--
LOOK!!



YOU MENTIONED
A SACRIFICE,
MY BROTHER!!

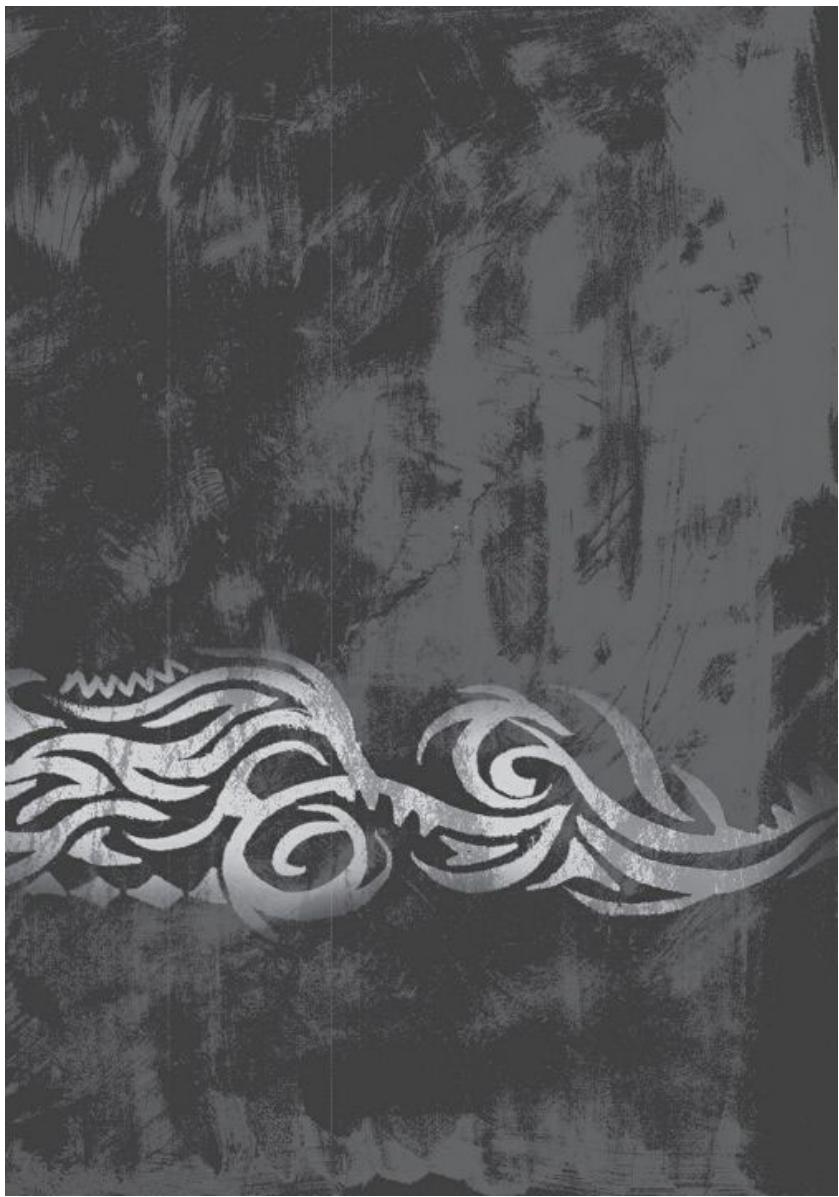


SNIFF SNIFF--ELEVEN--
NO--FIFTEEN PEOPLE,
INCLUDING THE ACCURSED
MISTRESS!!

SNIFF--AND THERE'S
NO PLACE FOR THEM
TO HIDE!!

三三

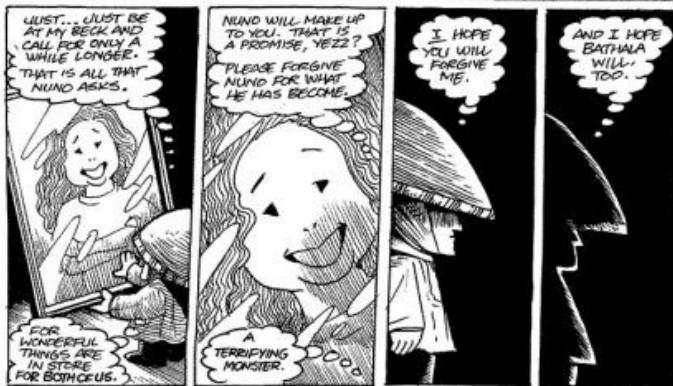
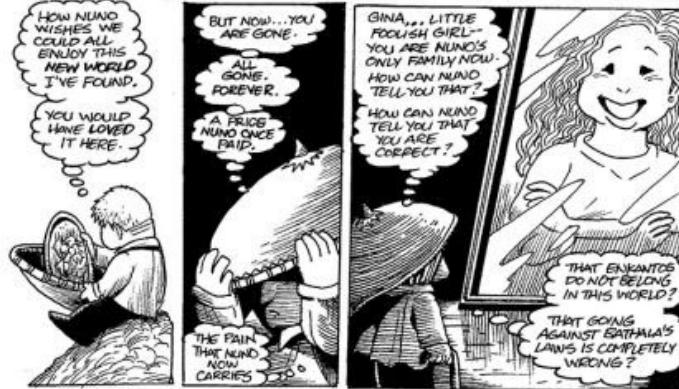






...ENKANTOS WILL ALWAYS HAVE A WAY OF SURPRISING YOU.











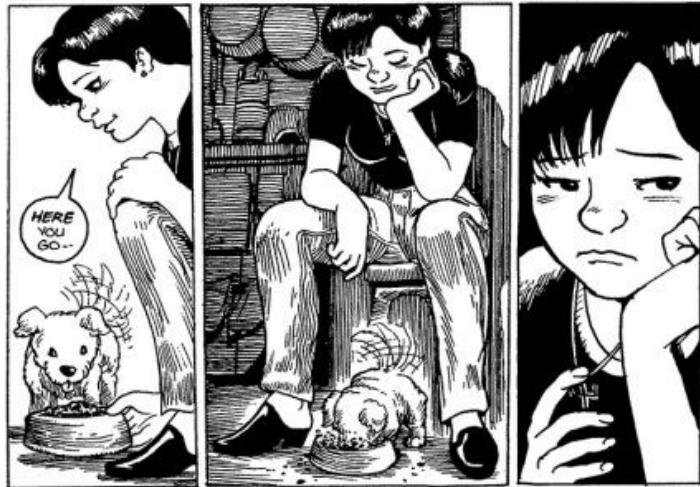




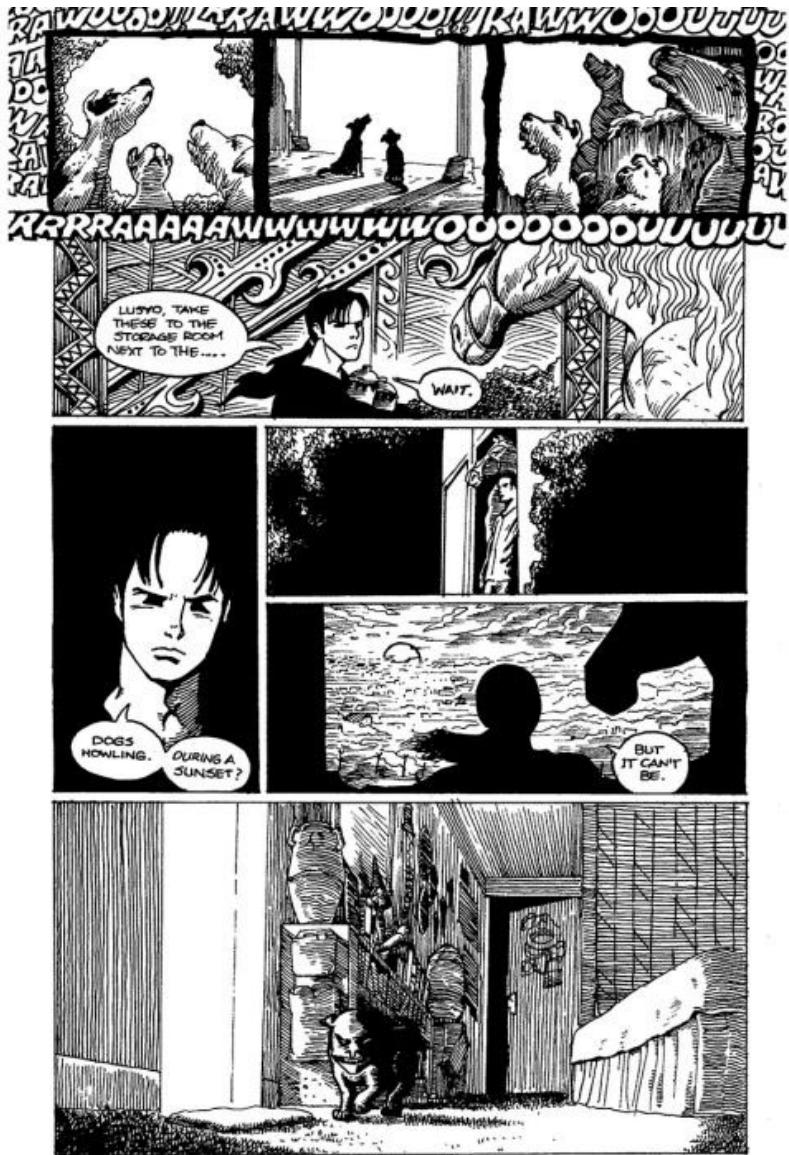




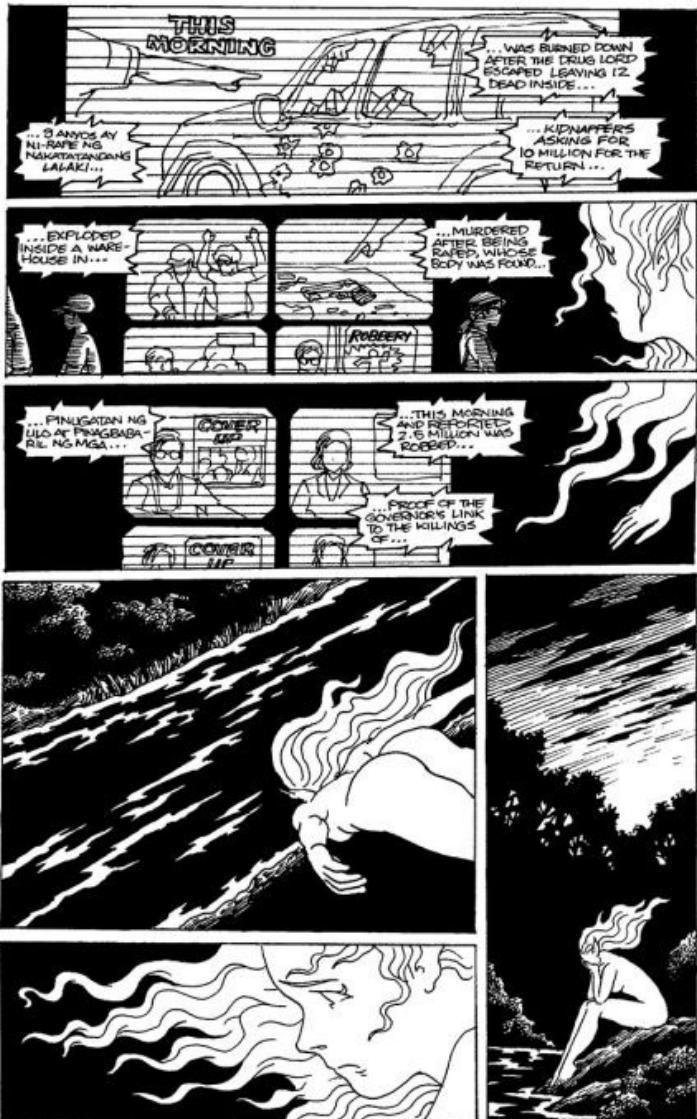


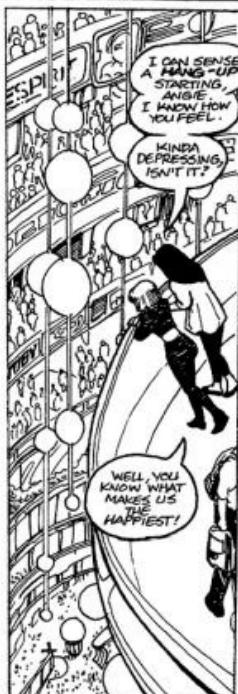














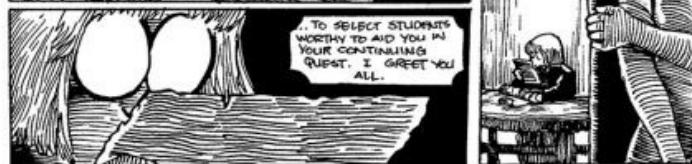


KRIS NA LIGAS
6:45 PM

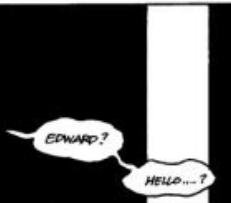
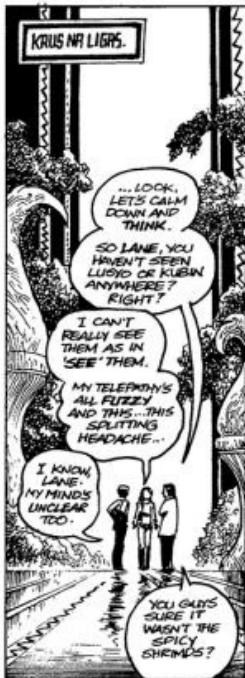




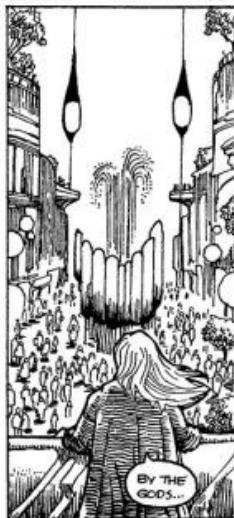
HOWEVER, I DO
NOT WELCOME YOU
WITH OPEN ARMS
FOR I BEING
TERIBLE NEWS...





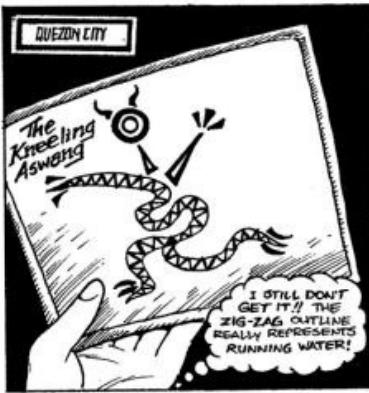










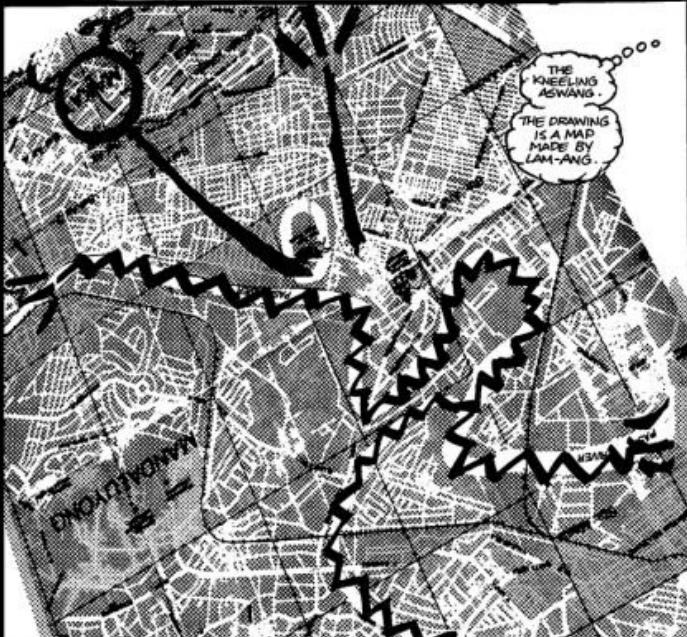


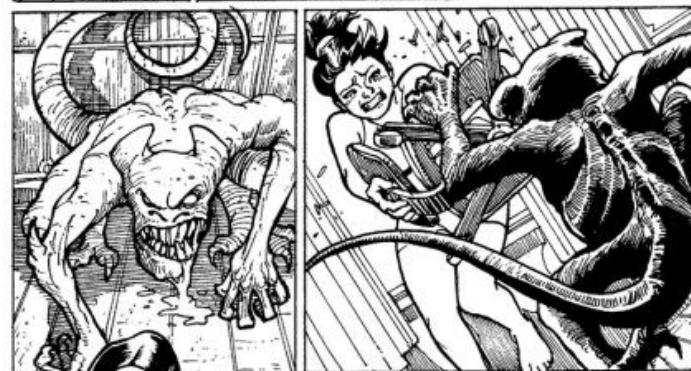


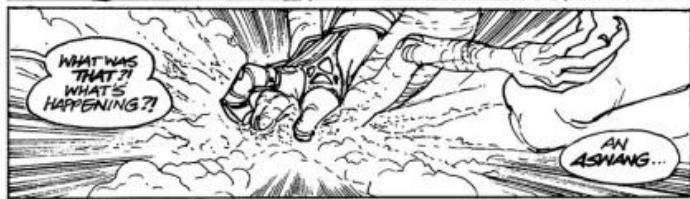




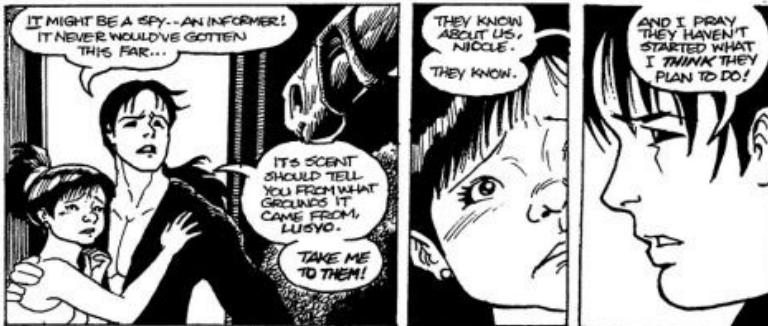








AN ASHANG...





MAKILING

HOW DARE THEY MOCK
THE GROUNDS OF OUR
SLAIN BROTHERS BY
BUILDING HOUSES OF
STONE ON TOP OF THEM?!!

NO MATTER HOW
PALATABLE BATHALA'S
CHILDREN ARE, THEY
ARE AS CARELESS
AS THEY ARE STUPID!!

ARE THE
MOVERS
READY???

THEY'RE FILLED UP AND
READY FOR THE TRIP
BACK TO THE TEMPLE!

PROCEED!!
THE ASHES
OF OUR
ANCESTORS
SHALL
WELCOME
SIAM'S
AWAKENING...

...AND
THEY SHALL
LIVE
AGAIN!!

THE
BEASTS...

NOT ONLY DO THEY PLAN
TO SHARK OFF BATHMA'S
PUNISHMENT, BUT ALSO
TO REVIVE THE ASHWAWS
SLAIN AGES AGO.

THIS IS
UNFORGIVABLE!
IT'S AN
ABOMINATION!

MRS.
ENKANTA
HAS TO
KNOW!
EVERYONE
HAS TO
KNOW!

WE'VE SEEN
ENOUGH OF THIS
OUTRAGE!

RETURN TO THE
HOUSE, LUSO,
AND WARN
EVERYONE!!

MAKE
HASTE!

GO!
NOW!!

BY THE TIME
THEY REACH
THE TEMPLE,
ALL OF THE
MISTRESS'
FOLLOWERS
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN
CAPTURED!

SOON OUR FOUR-
LEGGED CURSE
SHALL BE BUT A
FAINT MEMORY!

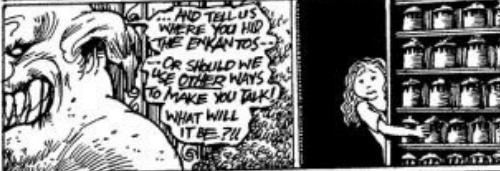
THE SAME CAN
BE SAID OF THE
LIVES OF THESE
PATHETIC
MEATLINGS!!

KUBIN...!

NICOLE...
RUN!!

JUST
RUN!!



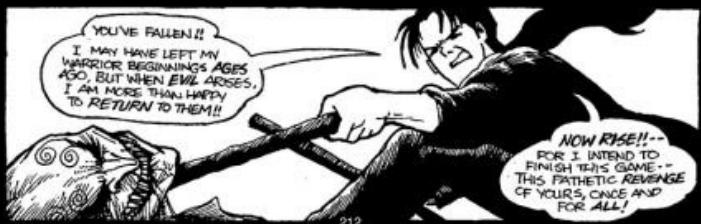














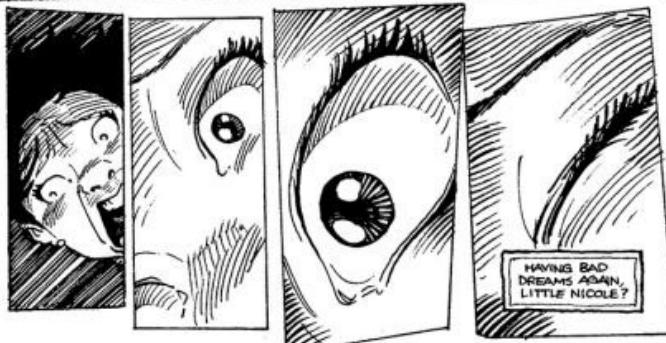














"REMEMBER WHAT
I SAID ABOUT
BAD DREAMS?"



"IF YOU WISH
HARD FOR THEM
TO GO AWAY,
THEY WILL."



"THEY ALWAYS
DO, NICOLE."



"THEY
ALWAYS
DO."

"HOWEVER, WHAT IS
HAPPENING RIGHT
NOW IS NO DREAM.
I CANNOT TELL
YOU ANY MORE
STORIES, HUA."

"BECAUSE YOUR
LOLO MUST NOW
GO... TO A
FAR AWAY PLACE."

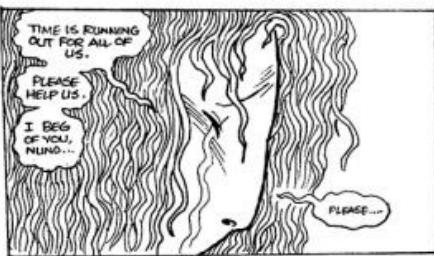
"I AM SORRY,
BUT I CANNOT
TAKE YOU WITH
ME."

































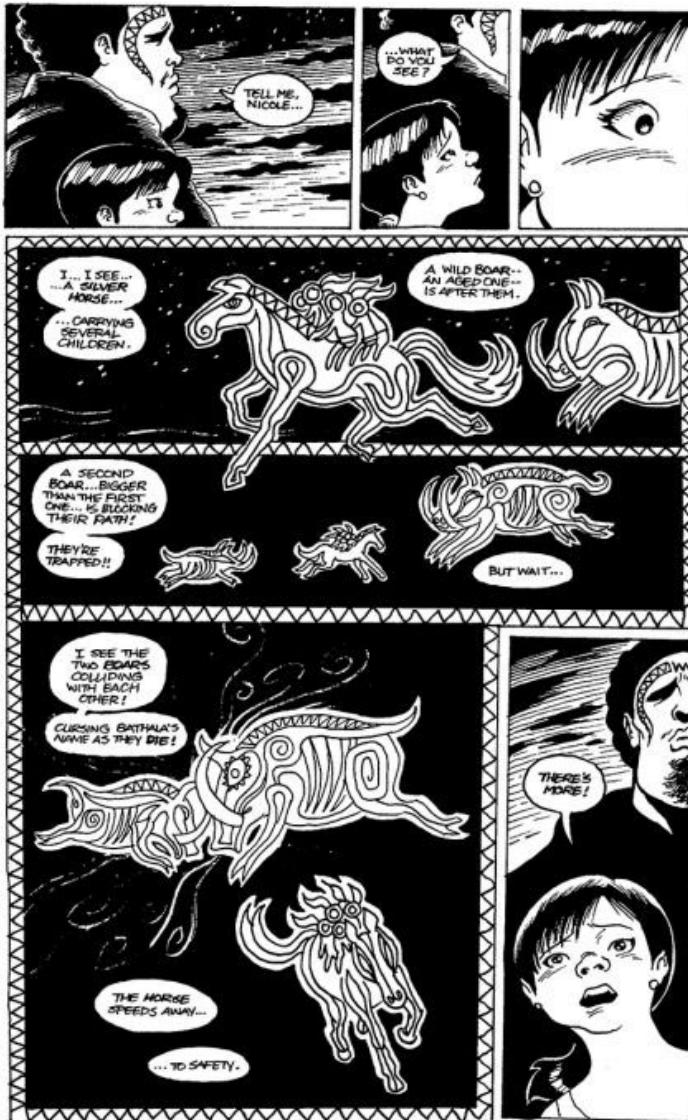
...A NIGHT WHEN
BATHALA SMILED
WITH PRIDE...





















29

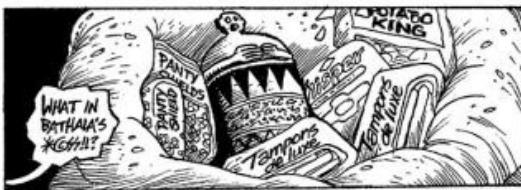










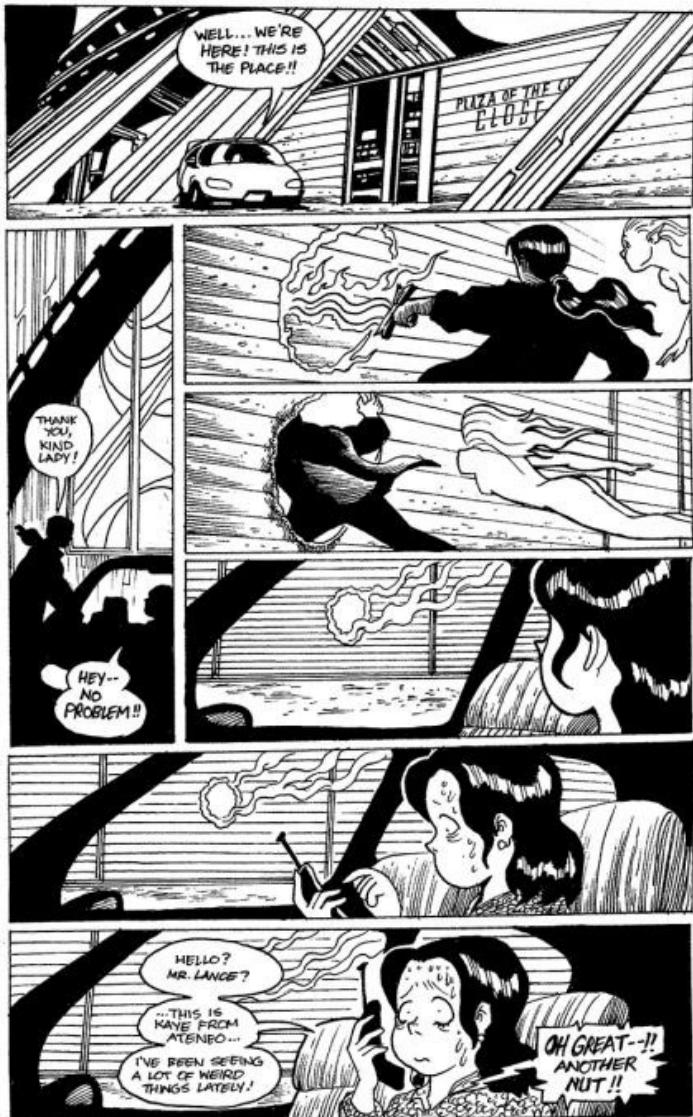






















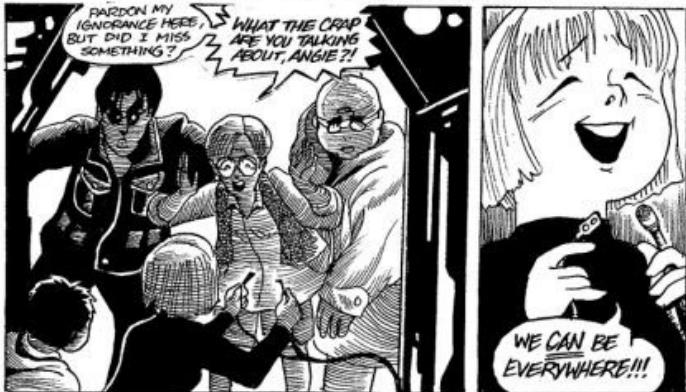


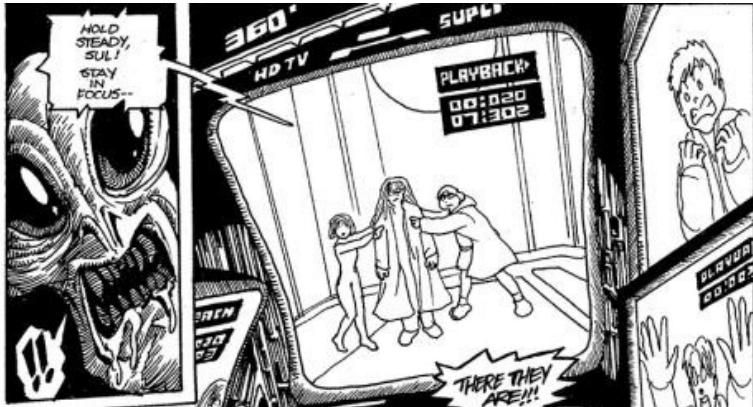












BKOW! BGAM! RAKARAKA! BGAM! KAWOON!
BQW! BGAM! RAKARAKA! BGAM! KAWOON!
REAMI! BGAM! RAKARAKA! BGAM! KAWOON!















































I SEE YOU TWO HAVE DEFIED DEATH!!! ENOUGH REASON FOR ME TO MAKE SURE--WITH ALL MY POWER--THAT YOU WON'T THIS TIME!!











X6
THOSE TWO COULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED SUCH A FAIL!

NEXT THING YOU'LL TELL ME THEY'LL BE RIDING AWAY IN CARS--



WELL, UNLESS WE WANT THE ENTIRE CITY TO WITNESS A STOLEN CAR BEING CHASED DOWN THE HIGHWAY BY MAN-SERPS, THERE'S ONLY ONE ROUTE TO GO---ONE THAT LEADS TO A LESS POPULATED AREA, PARTICULARLY THE UNFINISHED ANNEX!



WAIT A MINUTE...

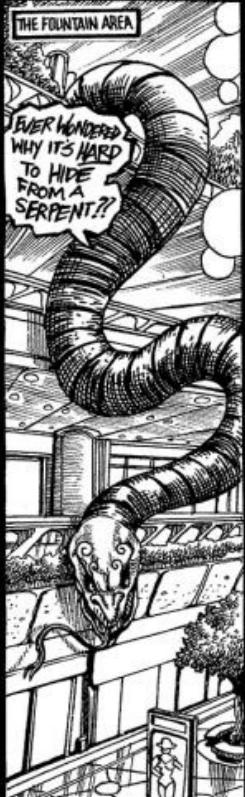
WHY IS EVERYONE SO QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN?















**IN THE
NAME OF...**

...BATHALA'S...

BRAPABABO OOOOMMM

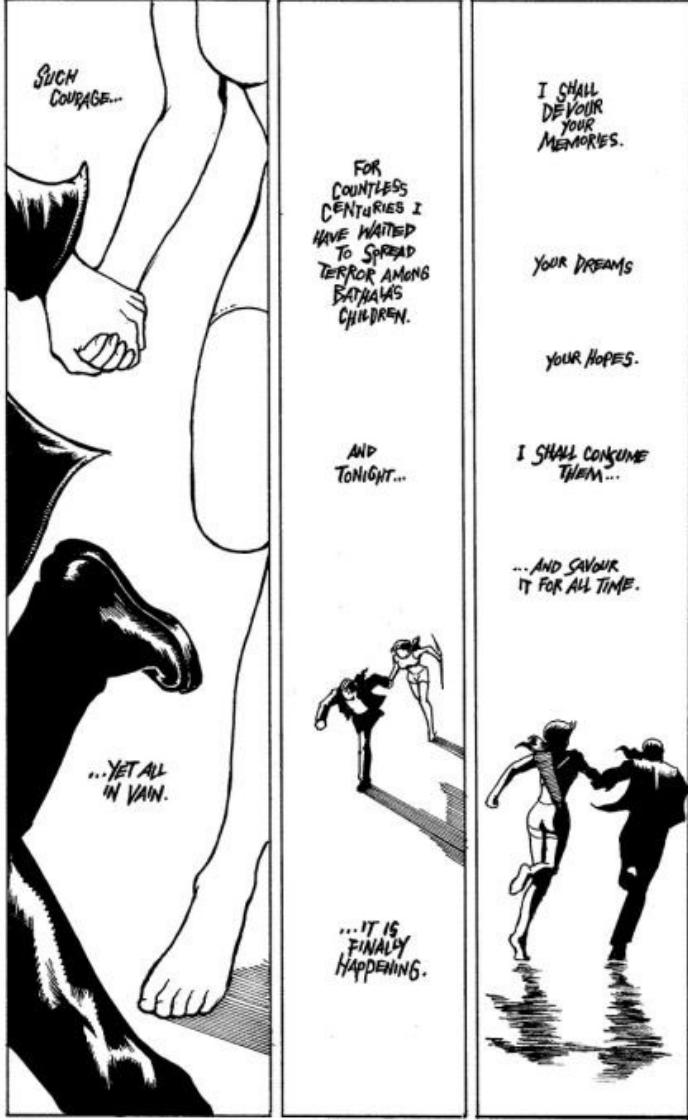


...NOW YOU HAVE EVERY
REASON IN THE UNIVERSE
TO GET A NEW ONE.

...A SILVER HORSE...
CARRYING SEVERAL
CHILDREN...

...SPEEDS AWAY...

...TO SAFETY.



SUCH
COURAGE...

FOR
COUNTLESS
CENTURIES I
HAVE WAITED
TO SPREAD
TERROR AMONG
BATMAN'S
CHILDREN.

I SHALL
DEVOUR
YOUR
MEMORIES.

YOUR DREAMS

YOUR HOPES.

AND
TONIGHT...

I SHALL CONSUME
THEM...

...AND SAVOUR
IT FOR ALL TIME.

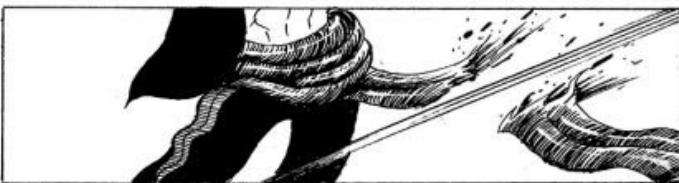
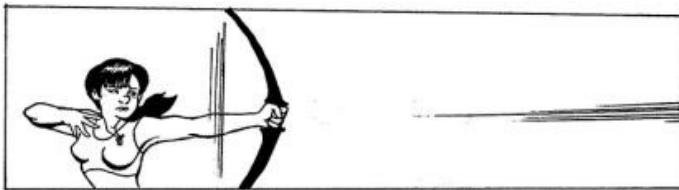
...YET ALL
IN VAIN.

...IT IS
FINALLY
HAPPENING.























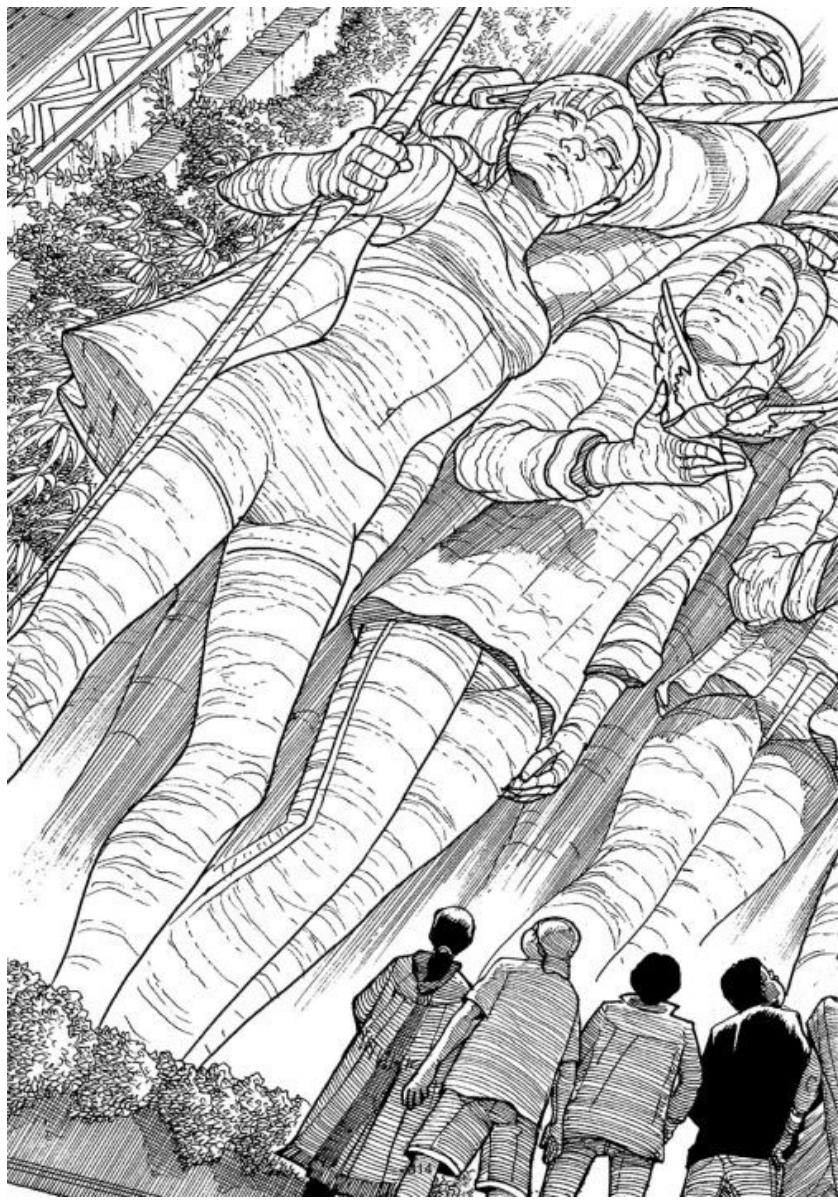
NUNO STILL THINKING, DATIMBANG.



SO BE IT, THEN.





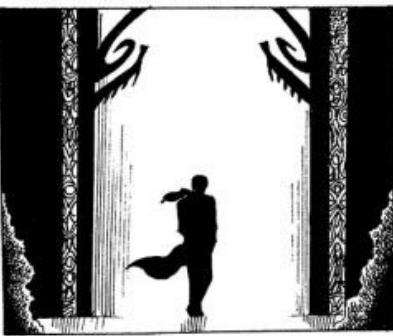


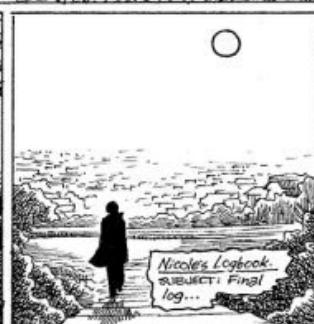




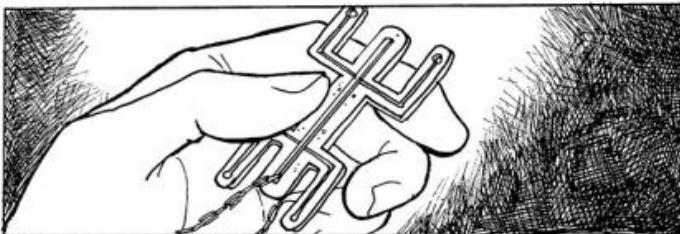




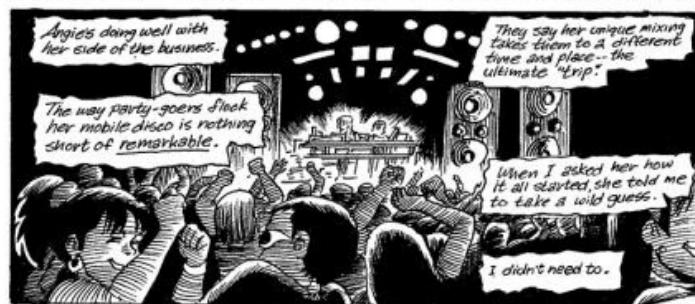




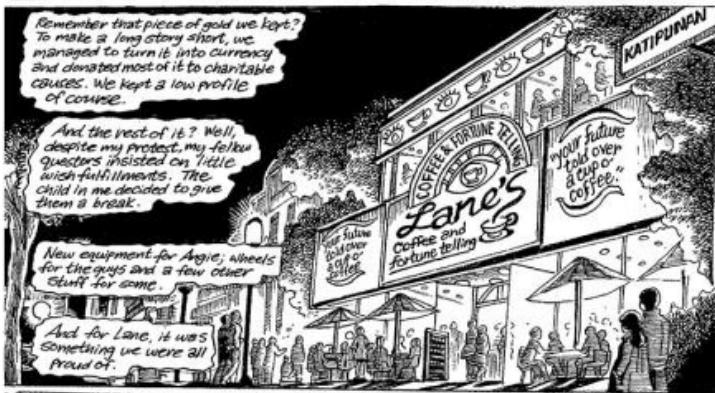




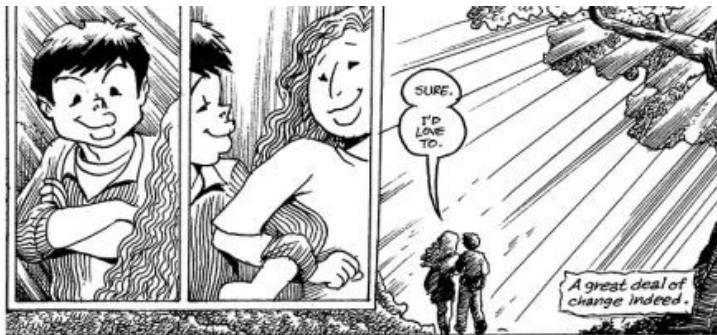




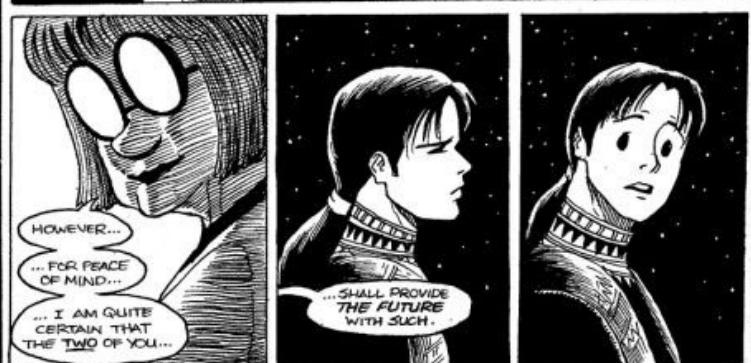


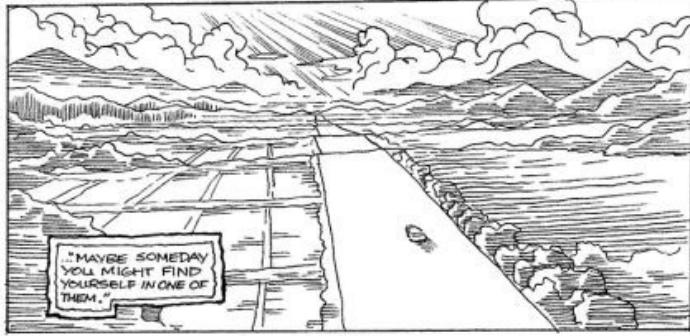
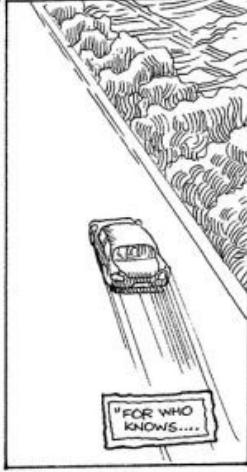










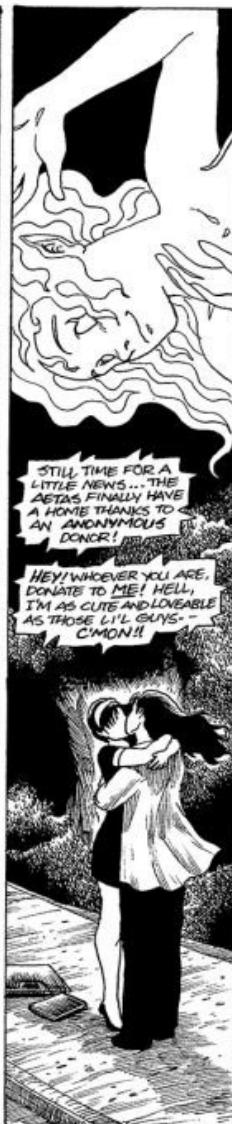














DAMMIT, I'M RAMBLIN AGAIN! WELL...THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE!

GOODBYE, MY WONDERFUL FANS! AND TO ALL YOU PRANK-CALLERS, I HOPE YOU GET LOTS OF GOODNIGHT NIGHTMARES! HAHAHA!

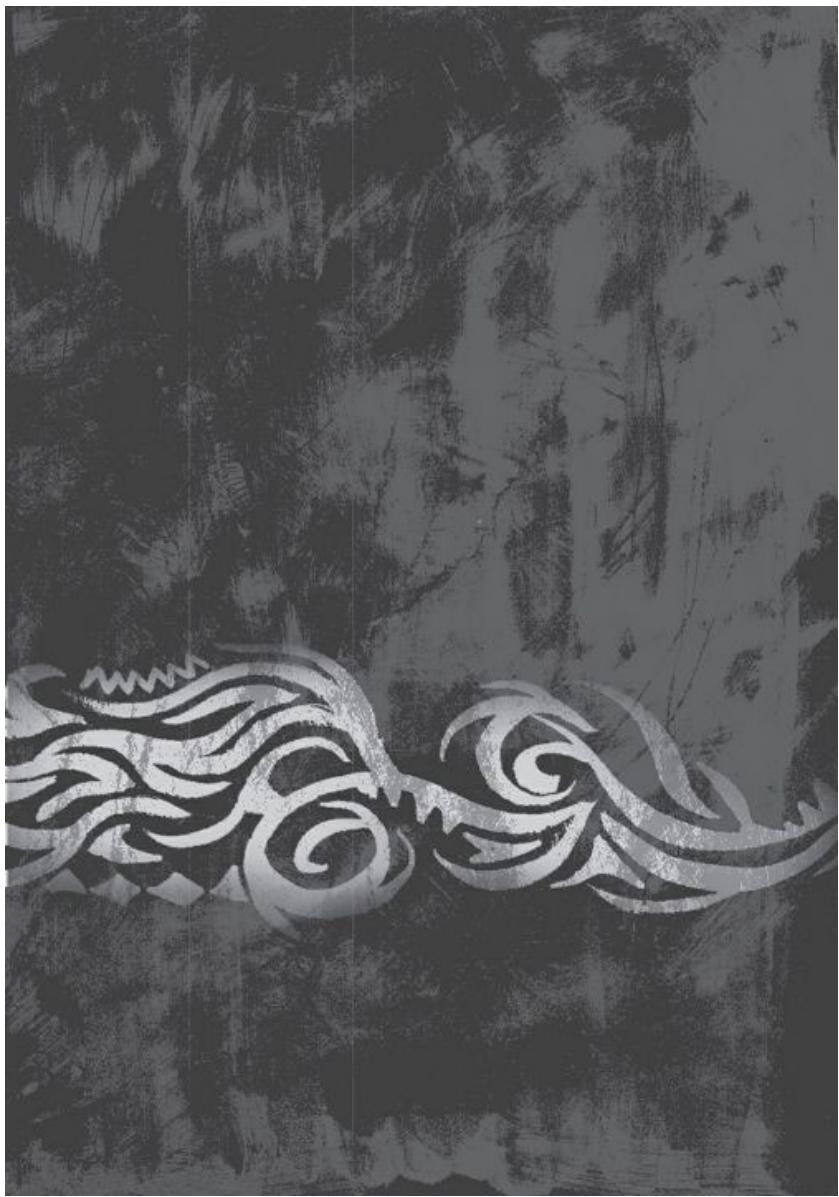
THAT'S IT!
SHOOOO OVER!
I'M OUTA' HERE!
GNIGHT!
GBYE!

AND REMEMBER FOLKS,
ALWAYS BE CAREFUL
WHEN YOU'RE OUT AT
NIGHT!

LOTSA'
CRAZEE
THINGS
GO ON
OUT THERE!



YEP, LOTS'A'
CRAZEE THINGS.



AFTERWORD

Since this is the afterword, you are probably on a pretty big high right now after just having finished reading (or re-reading, which wouldn't surprise me) *The Mythology Class*. I'll bet you feel a connection to these Philippine myths that you have either never felt before or has waned over the years. That is the magic of this modern classic that Arnold Arre has crafted. Just like the mythology it references, this wonderful graphic novel replaces the sense of dread our vast and mysterious world often instills in us with a feeling of wonder and awe. Not only that, like the best myths, it also inspires people to be better, to strive to do more, to believe that the unknown and the mysterious can not only be overcome, but harnessed for the benefit of all.

I think that it is no coincidence that many of the successful Philippine independent comics today mix in Philippine mythology with other genres like crime or sci-fi, the way American comics have superheros as the dominant genre, with other genres being fused to it to gain a foothold in the market. I believe that *The Mythology Class*, when it was first released at the start of the millennium, is the comic that inspired most of the major local comic creators today and opened the eyes of Filipino comic readers to the possibilities of Philippine mythology as a modern storytelling genre. This was the book that made many young aspiring artists and writers back in the day go, "Whoa! I wanna make comics as awesome as this!"

And yet, while he may have influenced a new generation of comic creators in a country that is known for its world-class comic artistry, for my money no other comic creator has come close to matching Arnold in pure skill, talent, and heart. In a way, Arnold is a legendary hero himself, especially to comic creators and fans. I have personally seen how inhumanly fast he is at drawing. He completed one of his 300-page graphic novels in just around three months. Another time, he drew a full issue for me in half the time it took a team of three artists to do the same. And yet, even with his speed, the quality of his work is unparalleled. Backgrounds are intricate when they need to be, the paneling and layout experimental when called for, but even close ups and simple facial expressions overflow with emotion with just a few simple lines. It is clear that no stroke is ever wasted with Arnold and every one serves the purpose of telling the story. As a writer, he has the same discipline, as he is able to balance epic plotting and sweeping action with sharp, natural sounding dialogue that fleshes out characters with just a line or two. This is why Arnold serves as a shining example of what all comic artists, both local and foreign, should strive to be.





The Mythology Class was the first local comic I read after college. It was the comic that reignited my faith in the local comics industry, and made me believe that we could make great comics in the Philippines. So yes, I was one of those "I wanna make comics as awesome as this!" people.

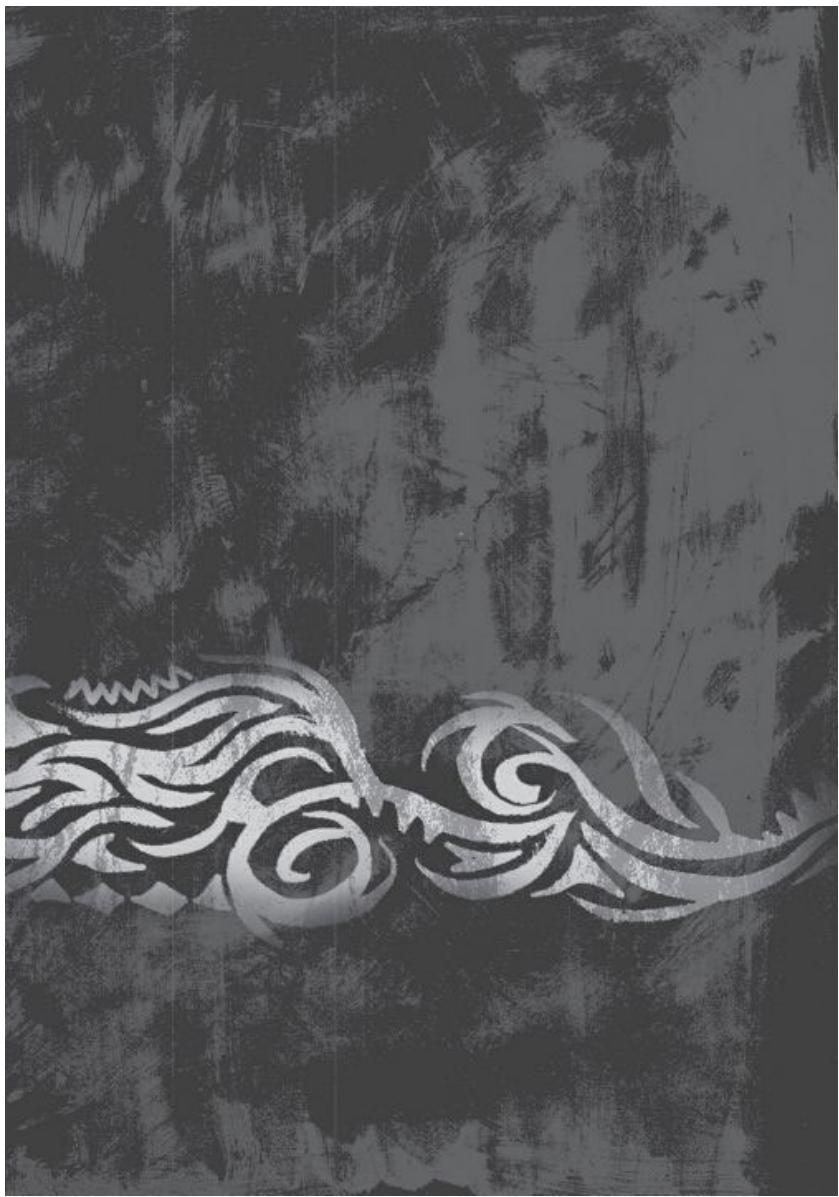
I was lucky enough to meet Arnold in 2005 when we happened to be the only Filipinos at a Korean Comics convention. I was already a fan, but then we became friends. Shortly after, we became collaborators, and now I am also his publisher. But the reason I am all these things is because I was a fan first and still am. The reason I want to publish Arnold's books is because I personally just want Arnold to keep making comics and I want as many people as possible to read his works. That's what we do for legendary heroes, isn't it? We spread the word to make their legend grow. And it's an honor to be able to spread this particular legend far and wide.

The Mythology Class has shown us that epic stories are not only there to inspire us from afar, but they are something we can participate in and contribute to. Legendary heroes are not only pillars of virtue to model ourselves after, but mentors and friends who continue to work with new blood as their stories continue. So I hope reading The Mythology Class has inspired you to either read more local comics (especially more of Arnold's stuff, and I'm not just saying that because I'm his publisher) or to try to create comics of your own down the line. And remember that if you do take up the torch (or the kampilan, if you will), just like Nicole and her friends did to continue the legacy of the legendary heroes, Arnold will be right there with us, guiding us, and continuing to push boundaries, just as Kubin and Sulayman and the other heroes of old did for the class.

So are you ready to be part of this ongoing legend? I know I am.

JAMIE BAUTISTA

Alabang, October 31 2014



SINCEREST THANKS TO...

My family—Leonardo & Nancy Arre, Leslie & Aurora Bauzon,
Lenn, Ate Ruby, Gian, Jing, Gladys, Calvin, Inches,
Jamie & Ilay Bautista and Nautilus Comics, Gerry & Ilyn Alanguilan,
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the entire KOMIKON Team, Ani Almario-David, friends, fellow artists...
and YOU for being part of the class.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Arnold Arre lives in Quezon City with his wife, Cynthia, and their marmalade cat. He's been drawing & writing comics for more than 20 years and is also currently honing his skills as an animator.

Visit www.arnold-arre.com

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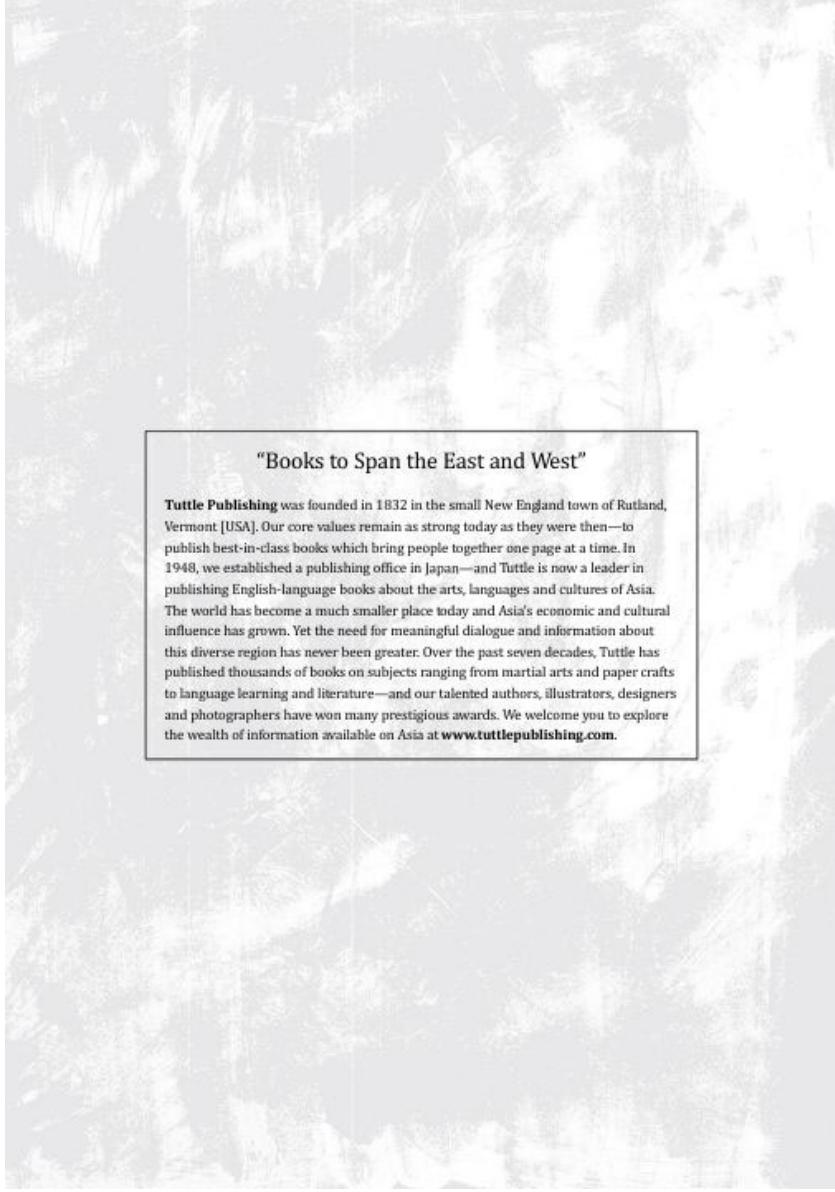
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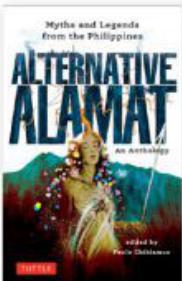


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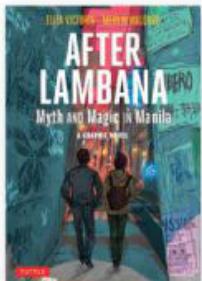
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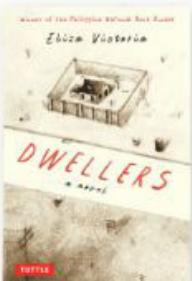
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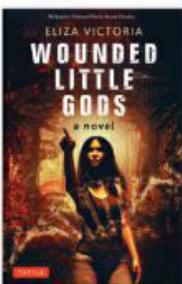
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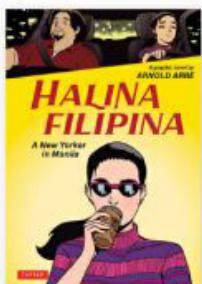
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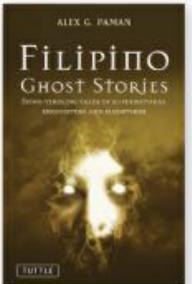
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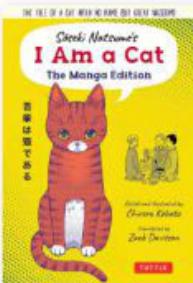
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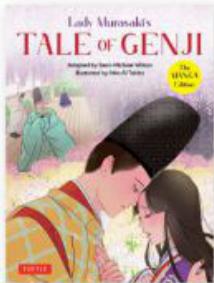
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Summoned to a secret meeting, student Nicole Lacson comes face to face with creatures she thought existed only in her grandfather's bedtime stories, the legendary figures of Philippine mythology and folklore come to life. With her ragtag crew of fellow classmates, they enter a realm of myth and magic, fighting alongside these heroes from her childhood against a resurging ancient evil.

Balancing the scope and magnitude of an adventure epic with the humor and insight of a coming-of-age tale, this international edition of the classic graphic novel introduces a watershed work to a new generation of fantasy and graphic-fiction fans.

ARNOLD ARRE won the inaugural graphic novel Philippine National Book Award in 2000 for *The Mythology Class*. He is the author and illustrator of many other popular works also, including *Halina Filipina*, *Martial Law Babies*, *After Eden*, *Ang Mundo ni Andong Agimat*, *Trip to Tagaytay* and the *Children of Bathala* series.

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—Marvel Avengers
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